

Country Day Montessori PTO  
Minutes  
March 31, 2009

Meeting Called to order at 6:30pm by President Carra Milikien.

The minutes of the February meeting were read by Tricia Love. Those in attendance indicated no additions or corrections were needed.

The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Valanna Bulner. She indicated that we had raised money with fundraisers (including bake sale, and salsa sales) and donations. We have spent money on the little house beautification, art supplies, and other operating costs. Our current balance is \$2,009.

Next were performances by the Upper and Lower Elementary. First, the Lower Elementary sang "Zip-a-Dee-do-dah", featuring solos by several students. Next, the Upper Elementary did a performance of "Little Tommy Tinker" using vocals, drums and Orff instruments. All the students were amazing. The students were dismissed to play on the playground and the PTO took a break for refreshments

The By-laws were presented and reviewed by Joan Martinez (member at large). After a brief discussion a vote was called for and the by-laws were passed by a unanimous vote.

Rose Saenz spoke on behalf of the fundraising committee. She presented information about the upcoming rummage sale. The rummage sale is to be held on May 2nd. Donations will be collected the last week of April. We are in need of both donations and volunteers to help with the event. The fundraising committee is also looking to do food sales at the upcoming fiesta event. The food sales may include salsa, drinks, hotdogs and nachos. We are also considering inviting select individuals to attend the event as a recruiting tool. Ms. Jennifer, the art director, informed the PTO that sales from "Art to Remember" will benefit the PTO. Last year sales from "Art to Remember" raised approximately \$600 for the school.

The process of teacher requests was discussed by Carra. A teacher request form has been created to standardize the requests from the various teachers. The teachers are asked to submit their requests to the executive board at least 14 days before the next PTO meeting. Next the current requests were discussed. We currently have two large requests. One request is from Ms. Cynthia for Orff instruments and Drums. The orf instruments would cost around one thousand dollars and the drums around seven hundred. The other request is from Ms. Megan for playground equipment for the elementary students. Currently we do not have an exact figure on the cost of this request. Gigi Garcia (teacher liaison for lower elementary) informed the PTO that structures ranging from eighteen hundred to twenty thousand have been seen. Ms. Megan would be interested in whatever we could afford. Questions were raised on where to place the play structure and what the standards are for installing playground equipment at a school. It was determined that more information is needed before we can formally sponsor this request. We discussed how to fund these requests. The executive board suggested putting twenty percent of each fundraiser to the instruments and twenty percent to the play structure. An alternative suggestion of twenty percent to the instruments and ten percent to the play structure was proposed, since we still need more

information on the play structure. A vote was called and the PTO decided to fund the instruments at twenty percent and the playground at ten percent by a 15 to 3 vote. These percentages can be changed at a later meeting if needs change or more information becomes available. Parents also proposed the idea of either starting a PTO scholarship or contributing to the scholarship funds that the school currently has. Those in attendance favored this idea. It needs to be formalized as a request and considered at a future meeting. The idea of having collections/fundraisers of specific project was also discussed.

The teacher liaisons were invited to speak. Gigi Garcia spoke for the lower elementary. She conveyed thanks from Ms. Megan for the donation of Frisbees and inquired about the status of the tetherball. Rose Saenz informed the PTO that the tetherball is in progress and should be up soon. Valanna spoke for the upper elementary. She gave a list of balls, jump ropes, cones and other physical fitness equipment that Ms. Jennie would be interested in. Ms. Jennie will make a more formal request using the request form that we can consider at a future meeting, in the meantime if parents have any new or gently used equipment that they would like to donate to the elementary students they may do so at any time. Jennifer Williams spoke for the Primary teachers. She let the PTO know that Ms. Norma is interested in a librarian. Parents who are able are encouraged to volunteer in the library to help out the teachers. Kathryn Fantasia presented Ms. Nozomi's request for shelves and other classroom items. All teacher liaisons were encouraged to pick up request forms for their teachers. The request forms are needed in order for the PTO to make a formal decision on funding a request. Forms can be obtained from Carra Milikien.

Gigi Garcia of the Nominations Committee discussed the nomination of officers. She presented the idea of voting in the same officers for the next school year in order to facilitate the development of the PTO since it is a new organization. A vote was called for and the officers were unanimously nominated to retain their positions for the 2009-2010 school year.

The floor was then opened to the members for questions and comments. The idea of having an officer contact list was discussed. The board let the members know that we are working on having a PTO link from the school web site and that in the meantime we will put together an officer contact list for all who are interested. Next, concern was raised about inviting guests to the school's fiesta celebration. The main concern was about the safety and freedom of the children if "outsiders" were to be present. A vote was called for and the PTO voted 10 to 3 against the idea of inviting guests to the fiesta. The members were not opposed to having a separate recruiting type event for guests to attend, possibly with a performance by the students.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5th at 6:30pm.

The meeting was concluded at 7:50pm.