

PTA General Meeting minutes
2016-05-02
Margaret Royall, Secretary

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Membership update - Christina King
 - a. 46 members now
3. 2016-17 PTA Board nominees & vote
 - a. President – Elaan Greenfield
 - b. Vice President – Jamie Jones-Rounds
 - c. Corresponding Secretary – Christina King
 - d. Recording Secretary – Margaret Royall
 - e. Treasurer – Brian C-K
 - f. Vote on new nominees – 16 yea, 0 nay
4. Playground feedback & discussion – tag, etc
 - a. Kate Dimpfl – advocate for more freedom of play
 - i. used to be on board for Ithaca Children’s Garden (ICG), playwork – facilitating play with children in unrestricted way, less bullying, more social growth, perceived risk allows kids to push boundaries safely; great way for kids to have freedom;
 - ii. October Play Symposium at ICG – Sept 30-Oct 1, 2016; could be an excellent resource for new ideas for FC Elementary recess and playground; Training teachers and aides/monitors in playwork <http://ithacachildrengarden.org/programs/ithacas-conference-on-play>
 - iii. Current restrictions on running, tag, climbing, play are restricting kids’ play too much; lots of research on free play and benefits
 - iv. Playwork – raw materials, tools, wood, ropes, pullys, cardboard boxes
 - v. Erin Marteil – ICG director, can help integrate playwork at FC Elementary
 - b. General playground issues
 - i. Rocks removed from garden because they’re being thrown
 - ii. More rules are being placed on recess, including punitive measures; adding more rules can take power from kids and then

they feel disempowered, and as a result may take energy out in less constructive ways

- iii. Model being imposed on the school that keeps kids from enjoying recess
- iv. Enforcement of rules is inconsistent and sometimes shaming or extreme
- v. Parents hearing bad things about the playground; kids being taken off playground for small infractions

- c. Can FC Elementary adopt some of these solutions? – playwork rules, possibly work areas
 - i. Mike Simons says yes
 - ii. Would be good to have a meeting with the aides/monitors, parents, and everyone involved

5. Afterschool playground

- a. Students not allowed after school unsupervised?
- b. Independent students – what’s the policy? Can they come back after homework or
- c. Disconnect between school rules and community
- d. Should this be a place kids can come as a neighborhood resource
- e. Fall Creek School Policy: after school students go home unless they’re being supervised – not officially enforced, randomly; some teachers telling kids they shouldn’t be on the playground
- f. Why are we sending kids away from the school? Where should they be having interactions? Should they school be a place they can go and play safely?
- g. Injuries and bullying often happened when equipment improperly used or kids unsupervised; clear why these rules are appearing;
- h. Difficult to make rules that apply to all kids
- i. Conflict resolution is an important part of recess

6. Rules – Fay will email them out

7. PTA Board and School are interested in exploring playwork and other solutions to recess issues listed above

- a. Parents please email the board what would be a win for this situation, what can change to make recess work better

8. Fall Fundraiser update (Paul Costa)

- a. How needed are the funds we raise? (\$9-10,000) Do we want to do this every year? What is the driving force? Community? Good for PTA?

- b. Hilby is also almost tapped out, possibly one more performance
 - c. Better delegation of duties
 - d. Brian – lack of budget committee is part of the issue with this; Fall Fundraiser funds Enrichment
 - i. PTAs without a good communication stream can pair this type of event with membership -
 - e. Fay – difficult decisions when board is changing yearly; easiest to do what’s been done; could get away with a smaller fundraiser
 - i. Chris Bell said it would be great to make it annual and rotate schools
 - f. Parents –
 - i. if it’s time for Hilby to move on, that’s ok;
 - ii. it helps jumpstart the year for the community;
 - iii. possibly partner with other local events, State Theater
 - iv. possibly do something like Songs for the Schools
 - v. could funds be distributed to other schools?
9. Speaker topic requests - what would You like to hear about at PTA meetings?
- a. Play Symposium
 - b. Farm to Table
 - c. School Food
 - d. Expert parents in the school (lead and neurodevelopment, nutrition)
 - e. Staff coming to tell about why they do what they do
 - f. Technology – chromebooks and ipads – lifespan, ewaste, safety
 - g. Peer Mediation Counselor Program – kids getting trained to mediate and help with situations in school, giving kids ownership and responsibility
10. PTA programming & events - what would You like to see as part of your PTA?
- a. Buddy Bench
 - b. Buddies of Kindergarten and 5th graders

Last PTA Meeting - June 6

***Remaining* EVENTS for 2015-2016 Chairperson**

May 2-6 Teacher Appreciation Week Room parents & coordinator

June 10 Talent Show Chris Bell

June 14? Bike Rodeo Doug Armstead

June 18 Playground Party Brenda Pepe

June 23 Staff Luncheon Fay and Christina King