Draft MINUTES
CORL STREET ELEMENTARY
PTO BOARD MEETING
May 14, 2013

Minutes:

In Attendance: Heather Ross (President), Linda Erickson (Co-VP), Ben Salinas (Co-VP), Jenny Seller Miska (Secretary), Scott Mato (Principal), Lee Ann Cook, Anna Muramoto, Jodi Vender, Deanna Patel, David Hutchison

1. **Call to Order:** Heather Ross called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Anna Muramoto motioned to approve that the April minutes be approved. Jodi Vender seconded. Motion passed.

   At this point, we took a few minutes to thank Heather Ross for her service to the PTO and present her with a gift. Heather said through her role, she feels much more connected to the school and other parents and teachers. She thanked Linda, Ben and Kasey for all their help. She said it also wouldn't be possible without all the terrific parent volunteers and school support.

3. **President's Report:** Heather reported that we are spending money on various projects including the garden, field trips, 5th grade party, so she's very appreciative that there is enough money to allocate and make these things possible. She indicated that we're still looking for a secretary candidate for next year's PTO. There was then a discussion of the role and responsibilities of the position. Deanna Patel agreed to consider it.

4. **Principal's Report:** Mr. Mato thanked Heather, Ben and Kasey for their service saying what a great two years it's been. He is also appreciative of the financial stability and credited the teamwork of this group making it happen. He said it has changed the flavor and atmosphere of the PTO.

   It is end of year and busy. Benchmarking continues and the 3-5th graders will get results soon. They are still trying to determine whether they will continue the 2nd/3rd grade grouping. He will send out and email soon with details. He will also send a general year end letter to all parents with details about what's happening between now and end of year.

   The garden committee has done wonderfully. It seems very organized and lots of things are getting planted.

   WPSU approached him about doing a photo shoot of the Tour de Corl Street (occurring 5/22).

   He also reported that the Harrisburg trip went very well and thanked the PTO for funding it. Anna Muramoto emphasized how well-timed the trips were for the kids since they are learning about

government. She said the stops at the Whitaker Center and Capitol were very good and the kids enjoyed them. She thought we are one of the few local schools still supporting this trip. She also pointed out that they had to extend the trip (due to busing requirements), so each stop was too short. She suggested making the trip shorter and spending more time at fewer places. There was some discussion regarding the reasons for adding the mileage – needing minimum mileage to be able to use school bus. Scott will relay the groups' impressions and suggestion to the SCASD field trip committee.

5. **School Board Report:** Dave Hutchison announced that due to community interest, there will be H.S. project update presentation at Corl Street on Tuesday, April 28th.

   He also presented a Keystone exam issue update. There was extensive discussion in the group re: the politicization of education in Pennsylvania right now; the proposed school performance profiles linked to PSSA's and teacher/principal assessments. There was also discussion about how we as parents can learn about the quality of schools without the profiles and what alternatives of evaluation are out there.

   Dave assured us that they will keep us informed about the testing updates.

6. **Treasurer's Report**: Heather reported for Kasey, who was not present. We are still on budget. Anna asked why the Harrisburg trip was under budget. Heather explained that the original number was a 'guestimate' based on previous trips plus some. So, it ended up a little less than the budgeted amount.

7. **Request for Funds**:
   - Anna Muramoto request $68.00 to pay for the orchestra lunch during a whole day rehearsal. Jody Vender motioned that we designate $68.00 to pay for the lunch. Dee Patel seconded. Motion passed
   - Scott Mato reported that Joel Myers donated $500 to the District for Ebooks. Each school is to match their share of the funds. So Corl Street would need to provide $40 for their match. Ben Salinas motioned that we designate $40 to pay for the Corl Street portion of the matching funds. Anna seconded. Motion carried.
   - Mr. Mato requested funds for bananas and oranges for the Tour de Corl Street. He has volunteers who will buy and cut them up. Linda Erickson motioned that we allot $150 for fruit for the Tour de Corl Street. Jodi Vender seconded. Motion passed.

8. **Standing Committee Reports:**

   <u>Teacher Appreciation –</u> Dee Patel wanted to make sure there was enough food this year for everyone. Mr. Mato said they could've used a little more, but everyone was very happy with the lunch. Dee said the Westside Stadium catered; she has some leftover materials for next year; and used Sign-up Genius to get volunteers. Heather thanked Dee for organizing this year.

5th Grade Party – Lee Ann Cook reported all planning is going well. She said they are going to ask parents for food donations.
Book Exchange – Mr. Mato reported that it went very well and was well organized. There were lots of books.

9. New Business:

PTO Elections

- Jenny Seller nominated Dee Patel for Secretary; Jodi Vender seconded. Vote passed.
- Anna Muramoto nominated Heather Ross for Treasurer; Jodi seconded. Vote passed.
- Heather Ross nominated Jenny Seller for President; Linda Erickson seconded. Vote passed.
- Linda Erickson will continue as PTO Vice- president.
- Per PTO by-laws, Mr. Mato will appoint a faculty representative to the Executive Committee.

There was discussion about changing the meeting night. It was agreed to change to Wednesday nights and continue starting at 6:30 p.m. It was suggested we move the Open Forum to the end of the meeting to keep the meetings running efficiently and ending by 8:00 p.m.

Jenny will work with Robin Bierly to make sure we have a sign-up for room parents during 'Back to School Night.' Mr. Mato will run the idea of having homeroom parents past the teachers. He will assure them they will be the point person to the PTO, and not a burden to the teachers.

Dee Patel is attending kindergarten orientations to introduce the idea of summer play dates.

Heather Ross will contact the committee chairs to determine if they have found new chairs for 2012-14.

10. Old Business:

Budget - There was discussion about the updates to the 2013-14 budget, including additional needs. Dee Patel commented on how nice it is that we don't have a lot of sales and small fundraisers all year round. She appreciates that the main fundraisers (Cougar Cat Run) and the others (e.g. Dodgeball) are community builders. Dee motioned to pass the 2013-14 budget as written. Anna seconded. Motion carries.

11. Adjournment: Heather Ross adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, June 4th at 6:30 p.m.