

**Parent Council Minutes
10-27-10**

1 - Call to Order

2 - Role Call/Class Check In

Lavender Kindergarten	
Rose Kindergarten	Chelsea Baum
Sweat Pea Kindergarten	Robert Wallis
1 st Grade	
2 nd	
3rd Grade	Mariana Nielsen
4th Grade	Lisa Gorbet
5th Grade	Dave Smith (Fill in for Mark Fogiel)
6th Grade	Catherine Janicke
7th Grade	Veronica Combs
8th Grade	Kristin Welch
Chair	Mark Dahlstrom
Faculty	Paula Barber
Administration	Caleb Buckley
Charter Council	Allison Gjertsen

3 - Approval of Minutes - Minutes from meeting on Sep 15, 2010 approved.

4 - Presentation/Discuss

Assemblies/Future Setup/Stage Mark/Paula

Faculty requested Parent Council to invest funds in infrastructure for hosting school-wide assemblies on campus. There are fewer venues available in town that can house the entire student body and interested audience. Although on-site staging may not be possible for Winter Assembly, it would be very useful in the spring and early autumn. The specific request is for portable stages and sunscreens. Ron Charles and Carrier Reuther have details on which specific items are preferred. An alternative of expanding the deck in front of the upper grades was discussed with the possibility of this being a Grade 3 building project mentioned. Upgrades to the PA system were also discussed.

Parent Council expressed interest in the idea, depending on costs. With parent Council interest, Paula to return to faculty to request a specific proposal and budget, including items requested and how they could be stored.

Follow-on to Snack Shack Nut Issue Kristin

Nuts have not been an issue at the snack shack. No peanut products have been allowed. There was a brief issue with items being sold that were outside of the guidelines that has since been resolved.

Follow-on to Halloween Festival Veronica

The Halloween Festival will be on campus during school hours this year and each classroom is deciding whether to have an individual party. School on Monday, November 1, had a one-hour late start.

Review School Store Loan Timeline

Mark/Paula

Last year Parent Council provided seed money to initiate the school store. Expectations are that eventually these funds will be reimbursed; however, this is expected in small incremental payments, as much of the income from the store is used to replenish stock.

ACTION ITEM: Mark will look up in prior minutes any agreements that were made and report back to parent Council at the next meeting. Mark and Paula to propose a repayment plan.

Basketball Team Request

Dave

Dave Smith made a request for the boys basketball team for a \$250-300 investment for gym time. Gym time can typically be rented for \$25/hr in two hour increments. The goal is to provide drills and skills training for the basketball team with a one-time practice for anyone in the fifth to eighth grades that is interested in basketball. The fees paid by the students are sufficient to cover the rec league fees and referee fees. The team is requesting additional funds for practice time. This is a very well respected and loved team within YRCS and the wider community.

There was wide support for the idea in Parent Council; however, there was also concern of continuing to provide funds when the current financial status of Parent Council is still unclear. \$150 was allocated during this meeting with an expectation to provide the other half pending more detailed financial information from the current treasurer and a complete list of all sports teams and their potential funding requests. Another vote will be held once Parent Council has more complete information.

ACTION ITEM: Catherine to provide the total funds available to Parent Council.

ACTION ITEM: Allison and Caleb to provide a list of YRCS sports teams and an estimate of funds that may be required for each.

Moondance

Melissa

Moon dance will be held on Saturday, November 6 at Miner's foundry. Auction items have been gathered from the community and are now being entered into an auction guide. Last year 400 items were available at the auction while this year only 100 items have been donated to date.

Last year's auction raised \$37,000 including \$4,500 for the special science materials request. This year faculty has identified another special request for sports equipment, including playground supplies, games supplies, Medieval Games supplies (javelins!), etc. Dan Martinez and Melissa Seibold are creating a prioritized list.

A major effort is under way to streamline the checkout process spearheaded by Denise Reynolds, her husband and Melissa Seibold. They will be barcoding each item in the hopes of making checkout very speedy.

Class projects for the auction are looking great. They include a handmade quilt, a hope chest, gift cards and more.

5 - Vote

7th Grade Yearbook Fundraiser: APPROVED

6th Grade Sushi Lunch Fundraiser: APPROVED

8th Grade Pizza Night: APPROVED

8th Grade Dinner at Classic Café: APPROVED

6 - Action/Discussion

8th Grade Pizza offering

The brand of pizza offered can be decided by 8th grade and did not require a vote. They are considering switching from Miner Moe's to Little Ceasar's.

Open PC Officer/Liaison Positions

Still looking for a co-chair for Alice for the sports committee.

7 - Committee Updates

Festival Committee

Veronica

The upper grades received an offer to participate in the Victorian Christmas in Nevada City. Fifth through eighth grades will be offering tin tapping, elfin shop, gnome house building and other such crafts during this community festival. Money raised will go directly to upper grade drama programs. There has been high interest among parents of these grades to participate.

ACTION ITEM: The fund-raising form needs to be located and approved.

A meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 1 at 2 PM in the boatyard for the Festival Committee. Whether and how to hold an on-site winter fare will be discussed. Interest was expressed to host some version of the Winter Fair on site, especially for lower grades.

Hospitality

Lisa

Lisa will be providing food for the parent educational talk on October 28. Assistance was requested in setting up and cleaning up.

Parent Co-op

Mariana

The first formal parent co-op has been formed. All parents have been fingerprinted and have signed all the relevant contracts. Contracts are now circulating with administration and faculty for finalization.

ACTION ITEM: Mariana to discuss with parents in the current co-op to ensure that they will not allow other parents to use classrooms on rainy days. She will also continue to visit the campus during the parent co-op time to solicit further participation in the program.

ACTION ITEM: Mark will provide a letter requesting participation that can be submitted to the newsletter.

Parent Ed

Joe

Rainbow Rosenbloom spoke on October 28.

Susan Egan is working with Joe to set up further parent education evenings. Eugene Schwartz is scheduled for the first week in December.

Sports Programs

Allison

ACTION ITEM: Allison to follow up with Deanna, the volleyball coach, and Jeff Dillis, a teacher at NU that facilitates the small schools sports program, to ensure that YRCS is on

the schedule as expected and whether anything more is needed. She will verify both the basketball and the volleyball programs.

Treasurer

Catherine

Catherine has begun to create the Parent Council bookkeeping records. To date she has obtained some of the bank statements from last year from last year's treasurer. She provided copies of all activities for the school year beginning August 2010. It was reported there is approximately \$8000 in this account. Historical records have been difficult to obtain.

Kristin, the fundraising chair, has two deposits for this account. She will fill out the deposit logs and submit to Susan Egan.

ACTION ITEM: Create a binder with instructions for future fundraising chairs including details such as how to deposit checks.

ACTION ITEM: The goal is to reconcile the current accounting statements and bank statements enough to determine current class field trip fund accounts. This will be added to a future Parent Council agenda once sufficient progress has been made.

Volunteerism

Melissa/Robert

The volunteerism committee met on how to encourage volunteering by parents. During any Parent Meeting nights, parent Council reps are asked to remind class parents about the importance of volunteering. Each family is requested to volunteer for at least two hours per month and to log their hours. Also please announce that a list of volunteering opportunities has been added to the logbook clipboard in case anybody is interested. As a reminder, remain positive about volunteering and thank everyone for their efforts.

Other ideas that are being considered are a recognition program for families that repeatedly put in extensive effort for the school and also to establish some sort of a structure for classes to show appreciation on a regular schedule.

Fundraising

Kristin

Kristin has updated the fundraising binder with details such as how to handle grocery store receipts and weeding out some obscure items so the focus can be on opportunities from local stores. Her goal will be to update the community on new ways to raise money by providing information in the newsletter.

8 - Notification Items

Report from Administration

Caleb

Nevada Union elementary is very interested in having YRCS rent their school. Caleb will visit the site; however, knowing in advance that there is no playground and no parking will make it a tough sell. Caleb continues to negotiate with the district about their requirement to provide some sort of facilities for YRCS, but as has happened in the past, he doesn't expect to make much progress on this difficult political issue.

The state of California still doesn't have any idea when the previously approved money for our new facility will become available. They indicated it could take as long as five years but nobody really knows.

The lease for our current facility is up in June. Charter Council is currently negotiating a new lease with the landlord who wishes to raise the rent.

Report from Charter Council

Allison

Allison and Matt will be leaving the charter Council in January of this year.

At the charter Council retreat Kateri Harrison and Gary Gardner presented information on what would help bring grants to YRCS. The item of highest priority is to develop a strategic plan. Four meetings of four hours each have been scheduled in January of 2010 to create this document.

ACTION ITEM: Add to next month's Parent Council agenda a discussion to identify four or five people to join these meetings. They could be Parent Council representatives or recommended and interested parents.

Report from Faculty

Paula

See above regarding stage requests.

Report from Ed Foundation

The annual fund drive will be kicking off immediately following the auction.

The annual report is being published online this year and will be available as soon as Friday, November 5. The annual letter will be mailed home along with a pledge card at approximately this time and it will include a link to Yuba River's homepage and the annual report. Having the reports available electronically allows for continuous updates. One new item this year is a link to alumni projects which can be updated routinely.

Miscellaneous

At the Harvest Festival there were requests from parents to have coffee during the half-hour parents wait for the assembly to begin. Discussion revealed that making that much coffee so early in the morning has been tried and has proven very time-consuming and difficult.

An idea from a parent to ask parents that remove their children from school with an unexcused absence to voluntarily pay for the missed funding opportunity was discussed; however, no one in the group was comfortable officially making this request. Some families do offer a donation in these instances.

There was a parent request about balancing the ratio of girls and boys more evenly, especially in the kindergartens. This was discussed with reminders that the school must adhere to an open lottery admissions policy that does not leave room for gender selection. Balancing between the various kindergartens is managed mostly to ensure adequate age distribution.

9 - Talk it Up!

Parent Ed - Waldorf Ed & Child Social Intelligence Rainbow Rosenbloom 10/28 6:30pm Bldg 2
Moondance! 11/6 at Miner's Foundry. Festivities begin at 5pm

10 - Next Meeting - Wednesday, 11/17 3:30-5:30 p.m.

11 - Adjourn