

Austin Creek Parent's Club
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 8th, 2018 8:00 am (Science Lab)

- I. Call to order 8:05am by Dave Traver
- II. Board Member Roll Call: Meets a Quorum

Executive Board Members:

Emily Pope Dave Traver Lisa Brown
Deanna Holzapful

Board Members:

Janine Taylor Liz Restel Mary Traver
Kiranmayi Acharya Cindy Wu Courtney Negrevski
Laurel Chamness Angie Castor

General Members:

Yen Ngo Sara Nakashian Julia Peng
Chris Seitz Dee Bergum Christie Nash
Karen Graves

Staff & Teachers in Attendance:

Jenny Lynch Amanda Probst Morgan Brady
Betsy Clarke Virginia Pressler

Approval of meeting Minutes from 1/11/2018
Motion to Approve: Liz Restel
Second: Courtney Negrevski

- III. President's Report
 - 1. Mural Project Presentation by Dana Vallarino
 - a. Dana grew up in Sebastopol and has a degree in Arts from the University of Santa Cruz. She has been doing murals in Sonoma County for the past 8 years. Gave example of Brookhaven school murals, which included participation from the school community. Also showed pictures of street murals in Sebastopol, which was a paint by number and can be done in a day. Takes design

ideas by parents, students, and teachers and what might inspire those individuals which then guides the mural design.

- b. At Austin Creek we are looking at the long green wall on the playground. Questionnaire will be sent out to students regarding design. The wall will be prepped by the district and a paint by number design will be sketched out. Suggestion is to have a weekend project to paint the murals so it doesn't interfere with school day. Sealed by anti-gravity seal – similar to plastic and will need a special cleaner.
- c. Background by Dave Traver: needs to go through the district. The wall has to be acid etched and is beyond the scope of the parents. Suggestion is to sandblast the walls to really prep them. Start with questionnaires regarding design this school year and begin painting next year – every green wall on the school. Low wall: \$2230, picnic table wall \$2750. Proposal to use this years garden club funds to start and then using surplus and increasing budget for next year. Potentially three additional walls in the future. Subject to approval and cooperation from the school district.

Motion to approve moving forward with Mural Project:

Lisa Brown

Second: Janine Taylor

All in favor – approved.

2. Campus Beautification by Dave Traver and Mike Cook

- a. Wide variety of problems with landscaping. Erosion of up to 8 inches around perimeter and caution tape is up to prevent students from going up hills. Mike Cook is here to discuss – he is New Trustee and professional Landscape artist. The funds will not come from the Parent's Club but will be proposed to the district. Our role is mostly advocacy. AC Parents are encouraged to start going to School Board District meetings to make our school heard. The public forum starts at 6pm to bring up issues at the beginning of each district meeting.

- b. Janine Taylor brought up thought to make sure that investment lasts and long-term maintenance is addressed.

3. Compassion Fund

- a. This fund addresses family needs regarding health related issues, life circumstances and fire related needs. It is completely confidential and managed by Principal Lynch. \$2400 has been given to two families post fires. Question raised by Courtney Negrevski - How do we advertise this to all AC families? – suggestions are Thursday flyers, Principal’s coffee, and ACPC website.

- b. School Adoption post fire: Principal Lynch has not heard back from Anova School. Emily Pope spoke with Hidden Valley Elem Principal regarding potential needs. 5 lower grade classrooms were lost and currently being reabsorbed on the main campus. District will rebuild. The needs will include classroom supplies – learning center, classroom library, etc. Emily Pope will touch base with Principal in September once the re-building has begun and the specifics are known.

4. Walkathon Leadership Planning

- a. New leadership needed for Walkathon and Auction chairs. Mentoring will occur from previous leaders and more fun to do as a team.

- b. Also, discussed the idea for an off-campus adult only event and any other fall fundraising events.

5. Election and Board Member Planning

- a. Dave is now taking board member nominations as there are vacancies

- b. Deanna will be sending out a survey to committee chairs asking for feedback about cost, if adjustments needs to be made for next year and if the chair is planning to continue with the position.

IV. Treasurer’s Report – given by Dave Traver as Tari Power is out of town.

1. Still checking on the status of the Kinder picnic tables.
2. Gaga Pit still in question – mainly where do we put it?

3. End of Year Wish List from Principal and Teachers – ideas have been laptops for students, ipads, and 3D printer.
4. Since Tari is absent for this meeting Dave proposed to seek approval of the budget at the next meeting since no changes are being made today.
5. Janine Taylor would like to send out analysis of the field trip costs she collected last Fall prior to the next meeting. Members agreed.

V. New Business

1. Meeting Current School/Campus Needs
 - a. AC is the only school in the district without an outdoor track. Our field is a shared space with the city and district. We have a cooperate-usage agreement with the City Parks and need to look into this further.
 - b. The AC MPR does not have a scoreboard or basketball hoops while other equivalent sized Elem MPR's have them
 - c. In order to have the above needs address ACPC members and parents need to start attending the district meetings (landscaping, track field, and basketball court)
2. Sign-up Genius is now on the website and in school emails for lunch duty volunteers
 - a. We need to have 4 volunteers per lunch in order to systematically use the side field and play games
 - b. AC is unable to fill the position of a full-time lunch duty person. The pay is considered low at \$12 per hour for only 1-2 hours. The district is trying to regroup position so it is more appealing and involves a full work day.
 - c. Any new aids will have lunch duty included in their role going forward.

VI. Committee Updates

1. Scoop Night: March 29th, working on teacher rotation
2. Planning on two Dine & Donates in April & May – Mary's Pizza & maybe EpiCenter (dining, bowling, & trampoline).
3. Boudin Dine & Donate hit 1k amount so we can do twice a year event now.
4. School Dance: tentatively May 18th and Carnival theme with lots of games, hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy. Discussed DJ vs

live band – consensus was DJ. Mary Traver asked if anyone has contacts for street magic/magicians to perform.

5. Field Day: May 25th, no update
6. Bingo & Spaghetti Night this Friday – Mr. Langley volunteered to be Bingo Caller.
7. Fundraising idea brought up by Julia Peng (pianist) to host a concert night with parents.
8. Talent Show will be last Wednesday in May.

VII. Principal's Report – Proposal to Change Classroom Size

1. Transitioning to a 24 students to 1 teacher per classroom in K through 6th grades. Austin Creek would become a two classroom per grade school starting with Kindergarten next year – then first, then second, then third grade, etc. This doesn't change the effectiveness in the lower grades but will greatly improve the upper grade effectiveness. 4-6th grades have become very large and challenging for the teachers to address the needs of all students.
2. This is being proposed by the district for next year but the details have not been laid out and a vote has not taken place by the school board.
3. Currently our school enrollment does not support even two classrooms from children living within the AC district. 58 Kindergarteners are enrolled among three classrooms this year – 19 of those students are inter-district transfers and 7 of those 19 do not have any older siblings at Austin Creek. The goal is 48 students per grade – if K enrollment goes over that number then students will be transferred out, if significantly over that number then may need to add a 3rd classroom.
4. 117 of current students at Austin Creek are transfer students. The original plan for the Austin Creek campus was 300-350 students total. Going well over this number has limited space for a computer lab and after school care. With the classroom size reduction, there will likely be no need to build new classrooms as previously discussed – looking at library remodel, media center, could AC have a TK program or onsite daycare?
5. The proposed plan will take 4 years to reduce the classroom size. AC will likely stop taking 5 and 6th grade transfers. No

plans for teachers to lose job – proposal is to transfer them to other sites within the district. This proposal will not affect all RV Elementary schools – will impact AC, Whited and other elementary schools that have less than 20 students per lower grade classroom. Other RV elementary schools that currently have more than 22 students per lower grade classrooms will likely become a 3 classroom per grade school.

6. Comment by Deanna – how can we address the currently enrolled students who will not benefit by the smaller classroom sizes in upper grades? Or the proposed school enhancements such as media center? – Principal Lynch stated this is still being discussed.
7. District has looked at the population feeding into AC: there is a decreasing younger population – birth trend projections are decreasing. Housing prices in Skyhawk and surrounding areas are pricing families out of Sonoma County. New construction in Skyhawk is projected to have a small impact on enrollment. District wide there is a decrease in enrollment due to the 2017 fires.
8. Opinion from Mike Cook: states he was surprised by the 24:1 proposal. States the focus is the upper grade classrooms that have 36 students per class – this needs to be addressed and is the focus behind the classroom changes. FYI: our district has a board policy to not combine classes such as one classroom filled with half 4th graders and half 5th graders.
9. The RV Superintendent will be voting on this proposal with the board thru negotiations with the teachers under closed sessions. Principal Lynch reminds us this is not a done deal – still lots to discuss but on track to make some changes for this Fall 2018. District is still looking at the transition from 3rd to 4th and how to decrease the classroom size to benefit those students.
10. GATE: smaller classroom size would allow teachers to better meet the needs of those students. Teachers are more open to this if they have less students in a classroom.

VIII. Adjourn Meeting at 9:45am – Motion by Cindy Wu
Second by Emily Pope