

**Park Road Montessori  
PTO Meeting Minutes  
August 24, 2015**

**Members Present:** Christine Aheron, Maggie Barker, Dianna Byers, Erin Chmura, Karen Delozier, Curt Frueh, Jill Goodrich, Kyle Kauffman Heather Speet, Andrew Lightley, Erin Lowe, Jennifer Moore, Anna Moraglia, Susan Plaza, Ginger Salmon, Cynthia Stone, Ruth Tencati, Debbie Webber, Cynthia Wood.

Jill discussed the meeting formats. Today's meeting is an executive committee meeting.

*Back to School Night* is September 3. PTO will welcome parents and discuss and vote on the budget. Karen will then give an Invest presentation. Ms. Moraglia discussed the time. There will be two 30 minute sessions. PTO meeting will begin at 6:00pm followed by time in the classrooms at 6:30 and 7:00. Ms. Moraglia asked for PTO meeting to finish by 6:20 to get parents to classrooms on time.

**Committee reports –**

**Fundraising:** Based on feedback from last year there will be 15% off spirit wear for teachers and staff. Spirit Night in September in Pineville, October is set up as well at Nothing But Noodles.

Heather is doing Breakfast Bash on Friday, needs assistance for set up. This is not just for new parents. Can possibly be a recruitment event!

**Teacher Appreciation:** Ginger discussed the problems with Jason's Deli last week; they have given a credit to be used in the future. Needs \$500 back in the budget for teacher appreciation if possible.

**Communication:** Jody Lowe pointed out that Diana Byers is room parent coordinator. E Bulletin deadline is Tuesdays at 5:00pm. Ms. Moraglia said that she does sometimes need to do an additional E bulletin. This will be done as necessary.

**Principals Report:**

The first two days back have been great. Students are back to work, buses have been much better this year, all buses gone by 4:45. Things out of our control are challenging, mainly assistants. We do have coverage in each class currently. CMS and the state are responsible for this. Ms. Moraglia suggested writing our state legislators. Jill asked about putting a link in the E Bulletin, Ms. Moraglia agreed. Ms. Cynthia reported on the rally this past Sunday. The state will be filing for an extension on the budget, TA positions are up in the air. Ms. Maggie discussed that our TAs came in last week even though they were not paid, they are invested in our school and our children. Diana asked if there is anything parent volunteers can do to help in the classroom. Ms. Cynthia suggested asking teachers if they need help with paperwork or other duties.

**Budget Report:**

The budget is up for discussion and approval. Kyle gave a brief overview. There is currently \$41,612.72 in the checking account. We have about \$53,000 available to us now, more than this time last year. The Wells Fargo matching funds account is typically used for the Enrichment Fund, there is a \$7500 carryover in there right now. This year we plan on using this for a consultant and Parent Ed night. Last year we did not bring anyone in so this is new. Ms. Moraglia asked for the carry over to be added to what was in the budget this year. The problem is we do not know which funds come from where (Green

Marathon, Invest etc.) Last year there was \$6000 budgeted, less than \$3000 spent (3 webinars and one course.) Kyle said none of this information is in Quickbooks, should we use the entire \$7500 this year? Jill said we need to review all line items. Kyle is trying to track things differently this year. Jill suggested using more money for cultural arts when the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary comes up. Ginger asked if conferences are funded the same as last year. Kyle said there was \$1800 carryover, \$8600 allocated, so over \$10,000 available for this. Ms. Priti did not go to a conference last year so that carryover is earmarked for her. To clarify teacher conference funding:

- carryover only permitted for those teachers that received approval by Anna Moraglia
- money not spent was forfeited by the teachers (and why we have a surplus)
- overspending last year simply means the teacher will receive less money this year.

Kyle will be providing monthly statements to the teachers so that they will have a better understanding of their spending and not go over their allocated amount.

There is also money allocated for the secondary Montessori program, this is a new line item as is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary program. Jill asked the group to review the budget: \$7500 Montessori Enrichment, \$2500 Staff Appreciation, \$10,000 Teacher Conferences. We have \$2000 allocated for Sedgefield Middle School. This would come from our unallocated funds, the \$3000 surplus. Ginger asked what Sedgefield uses this money for. They do not have a large enough student base to raise money. They have asked the four Montessori elementary schools to invest in the middle school. Jill said based on feedback there is support for this. Erin said we ask our teachers to be accountable for what they spend. We also need to ask the Sedgefield Montessori PTO to be accountable for any funds we give to them. Jill said we have this money that is not being spent. Do we give \$500 to Sedgefield? Ginger said we have cut the Cultural Arts funding, we need to support our assistants, etc. It may be difficult to get support from our parents to give money to Sedgefield. Diana said we need to know exactly what it funds. Kyle suggested getting a cause behind it, not just writing a blank check. Ms. Moraglia agrees, there is not time for a whole school survey. Ginger suggested increase funding where we cut, then see what is left for Sedgefield Montessori. We know Chantilly gave \$2000. We want to be supportive but not obligated to give the same. Jill feels we need to give something, maybe just \$500? Heather suggested considering it another classroom to decide on funding, about \$700. Kyle said we budgeted less for Invest than we got last year and will have money for this. Erin suggested asking Sedgefield for specific items they need. The group agreed on a \$1200 amount. Sedgefield Montessori wants to have more of a partnership in the future.

There will be emails to the executive committee and Ms. Moraglia before the budget is presented next week at the PTO meeting. The budget will be communicated in the E Bulletin Tuesday prior to the meeting. We have to move forward and make decisions. We do not want money to ever be a question.