

**Paradise Canyon Elementary School
Open PTA Meeting
November 17, 2009**

1. Call To Order

President Lisa Dick called the Open Meeting of the Paradise Canyon Elementary School PTA to order at 9:20 am in the multipurpose room. A quorum was present.

Cissy Belcher led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Lisa Dick welcomed those in attendance and thanked all of the volunteers who have worked tirelessly during the month of November.

Lisa announced that we have been waiting for a grant, which Connie Becker wrote last year in order to purchase some of the extras for the multipurpose room. With the grant we will be able to purchase a projector, retractable basketball hoops, and curtains for the front of the room. The last thing that the district will do is to tie the back part of the building together with the garden area.

David Haxton asked if we would install drama lights. Lisa answered that that would come later.

2. Business

Secretary Paige Hulseley **moved** to approve the minutes of the October 13 Open Meeting, and Laura Buchanan seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Treasurer Susan Marki gave the Treasurer's Report. Susan referred to the two types of reports circulating around the room, the Check Detail Report and the Cash Detail Report.

According to Susan, our cash balance as of October 31 is \$176,794. Susan explained that the large number reflects all of our beginning of year fundraising, the fact that some of our fundraising expenses are not yet included, and that teachers and administrators have not yet begun significant spending programs.

Susan stated that once all of our expenses are included, our fundraisers will be about on budget. The Back to School Picnic, Harvest Festival, and Poker Social are slightly above budget while Cougar wear is slightly below budget. Gift Wrap is looking to be on schedule.

Susan asked everyone to note the Hill Street Café number under Other Income. She announced that we have received a total of \$2,265 from our

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local restaurant so far this year! Through the end of this year, on Mondays, Hill Street Café donates 3% of its net sales to PCY PTA. Many thanks to Mark Lim and the managers of Hill Street Café. Susan encouraged everyone to go and enjoy eating at Hill Street – on Mondays!

On the expense side, Susan announced that 43 checks were written from October 6 through October 31. These totaled \$26,550 with fundraising expenses and supplies being the biggest items. November checks, which are not included on the report, are very large. We are purchasing several mimios and overhead projectors for the teachers in November, and the teachers are starting to use their budgets.

Susan announced that we have to file Form 990 with the IRS on an annual basis. This year, again, Russ and Allcroft CPAs in Glendale completed our return. They again charged us at cost -- \$200 – for their services and did the job quickly and professionally. Their fee was between \$600 - \$800 less than other local CPA firms quoted for their services.

Susan mentioned that she adjusted the budget to reflect small increases in dues and program fees as well as a realization of fundraiser figures. These changes are reflected in color on the Cash Detail Report.

Susan ended by explaining that we currently hold almost \$41,000 in a savings account at Wells Fargo. She proposed that we switch these funds from the current business savings account to the Wells Fargo High Yield Savings account. Susan explained that because our balance is high enough, we are eligible for this account and will receive a higher interest rate. Currently we receive about .10% on our money. The new account will give us .60% on our money.

Susan Marki **moved** to approve the October 2009 Cash Detail Report. Lisa Fungo seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Susan Marki **moved** to approve the October 2009 Check Detail Report. Mikaho Hara seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Susan Marki **moved** to approve the Adjusted Slated Budget. Mary Beth Eckerle seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Susan Marki **moved** to switch our Wells Fargo funds to a high yield account. Susie Gray seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

Auditor Susie Gray announced that she had performed a full audit on PCY financials. Susie thanked Treasurer Susan Marki and Financial Secretary Mikaho Hara for doing a wonderful job. Susie **moved** to ratify the Audit as

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of June 30, 2009. Laura Buchanan seconded the motion. **The motion passed.**

3. Principal's Report

Donna Robinson welcomed everyone to the new multipurpose building and talked about how proud we all are. She also thanked all of the volunteers who have been working hard all year.

Donna announced that we are getting four new mimio machines and four other projectors. The teachers are very excited! She talked about teacher training and mentioned the benefits to the students. Students can now go onto the Internet and pull information off to further enhance their instruction.

4. Program

Lisa Dick introduced Superintendent Jim Stratton who announced that it is appropriate for us to meet here in the new multipurpose building, which serves as an example of the construction projects, and improvements that are underway in LCUSD.

According to Jim Stratton, we have \$3.9 million in projects yet to complete, and we have \$4.1 million available to us. He announced that everything that we are doing is part of a \$25 million bond project. He mentioned that money for these projects also comes from a state modernization fund as well as development fees, which are paid to the city for population growth. These fees are, in turn, paid to the district for growth of particular programs such as the choral programs.

Mr. Stratton announced that the Governing Board will meet in December to discuss plans for closing budget shortfalls, a situation which many school districts will be facing this year. The Governing Board will plan to close the gap with part of the \$3.5 million in reserves – only a handful of districts are in this position. They will concentrate on keeping class sizes low for K-3, keeping arts programs, and keeping counselors at the high school.

Mr. Stratton explained that in addressing the shortfalls, the district has conducted studies that will not decimate staff and programs. He announced that they would be submitting a budget to the county, which would extend out an extra year.

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He announced that the high school is interviewing for a new counselor for next year. They hired a temporary counselor to finish out the year, just to make sure that budget money will be allocated to that position. Also, there is a larger applicant pool at the end of the year. He explained that the high school needs renovation to include improvements in cleanliness of student areas, stairwells, and landscaping. He will be checking on their progress this Monday.

Mr. Stratton praised PCY, announcing that the all other schools should look to the PCY Campus was the standard for beauty and cleanliness.

He announced that the election is done and the incumbents will be back and ready to move forward. He mentioned that some of the cuts would reflect in the 9th grade class size and cutting of custodial positions. They are also cutting the special school which in on the Lanterman property.

David Haxton asked about enrollment in the schools. Jim Stratton answered that it is still declining but not as much as projected due to people moving in over the summer.

5. Chairperson's Reports

Holiday Lunch: Cissy Belcher announced that the Holiday Lunch will take place on December 16th at the Newquist home. She will be asking Board Members to bring a dessert. She also mentioned that Michelle Sabourin is donating containers for the staff to take home cookies. According to Cissy, Gourmet A Go Go will provide the lunch, and parents will be charged \$12.

Poker Social: Chrissie Arnold announced that everyone had a great time at the Poker Social. She reminded everyone that it's just a social event and not a fundraiser. We did make \$1,000.

Lisa Dick thanked Brian and Chrissie Arnold for the wonderful job they did on the Poker Social.

Book Fair: Chrissie Arnold announced that the full Book Fair packet would go out this week in the Thursday folder. She reminded everyone about the preview dinner catered by Pie and Burger. She urged everyone to come because they have guaranteed Pie and Burger 100 dinners for catering the event. The preview will be on Tuesday, December 8 from 5:30 – 8:30pm. It's a great way to get some of your Christmas shopping out of the way.

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Chrissie also announced that an email will be coming out for volunteer sign-ups. She mentioned that Laura Campabasso, who has written a children's book, will be a guest reader.

Gift Wrap: Lisa Fungo announced that the Gift Wrap fundraiser made a little over \$21,000 in profit. She mentioned that the limo lunch ride was yesterday and thanked Sue Kanner and Greg Hardash for organizing, Donna for riding, and Mary Beth for Roundtable. Lisa announced that gift wrap distribution will be on Thursday from 11:30am to 6:30pm in the cafeteria. An email reminder will be sent to everyone. Also, thanks to Christine Chant for rounding up volunteers.

Debbie Pierce thanked Lisa Fungo for all of her hard work!

Reflections: Lisa Fungo announced for Christine Chant that the Reflections deadline is on Thursday, November 19.

PCY Beautiful: Caren Colburn gave an update on the landscaping for the multipurpose building. She announced that they would remove the old fencing and replace it with new fencing with green slats all the way down to the Oliveta gate. Hopefully they could put fencing on the gate for privacy.

They will continue the theme of new landscaping. Then, depending on funds, we will do the opposite side. Laura Buchanan asked if we would do a Saturday volunteer landscaping. Caren said that she will do that in January. With regard to landscaping, Caren explained that we are giving up on things that require water, so we will go with succulents.

Cougar Wear: Sandy Ahn announced that Cougar wear sales did well totaling \$12,809 in sales and \$2,080 in profit. She gave interesting statistics on what sold, including the fact that 75% of the t-shirts sold were child sizes and 25% were adult sizes. Also, turquoise was the most popular color.

Learning Academy: Makiko Nakasoni from the Learning Academy in the Community Center gave a talk on the Learning Academy and gave everyone tips for improve learning skills.

6. Announcements

- Spirit Rally – Friday, November 20th – Wear your favorite college clothing
- Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL – 11/23-11/27

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- Book Fair Preview Dinner – December 8th, 5:30pm
- Gift Wrap Distribution Thursday in the Cafeteria
- 6th Grade Play – Wednesday, December 9 @ Lanterman
- Holiday Staff Lunch – December 16 at Newquist home
- Winter Recess – NO SCHOOL, 12/21 – 1/01
- Next meeting is Tuesday, January 12th @ 9:15am

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Submitted by:

Paige Hulsey
Recording Secretary