

**Crocker Highlands Elementary School PTA
Board Meeting
September 10, 2009**

PROGRAMS REPORT

PROGRAM	STATUS REPORT
1. AfterSchool	<p>The after-school classes started this week. We have an exciting line- up of classes and are still working to finalize all locations based on enrollments still coming into our providers. The schedule on the Crocker website will continually be updated.</p> <p>New classes this year include piano, tutoring and musical theater. We will continue to monitor the popularity of the classes as well as the providers' responsiveness and organizational ability as we make alterations to the schedule going forward.</p>
2. Book Fair	<p>We are calling this a "transition year" for the bookfair and hope to begin by incorporating some of the ideas that have come up and address some of the concerns that have been raised regarding the goals of the program and how this relates to the choice of vendors (Scholastic vs. alternatives). We are proposing to hold the bookfair in the MPR on Wednesday, December 2, 2009.</p>
3. Carnival	<p>Carla Higgins and Mykah Montgomery have volunteered to co-Chair the Carnival Committee this year.</p>
4. Craft Fair	<p>Looking for a co-chair</p>
5. Children's Advocacy	
6. Dad's Club	<p>The Sept. 8 Spaghetti Feed was a great success! Thank you, Eric!</p>
7. Directory	
8. Diversity/AFFEAT	<p>Co-Chairs are Kampala Taiz-Rancifer and Allison Rodman. Meetings will be every 2nd Thursday of the month starting this Thursday Sept 17th at 7:00 first meeting. Childcare provided, RSVP to 763-7764.</p> <p>New name and new format. Looking to change name to something like Equity Council. New format will be the following; The meetings will alternate-- General Diversity Committee meeting followed by Diversity Caucus Meetings; African American Caucus, LGBTQ Caucus, Learning Differences Caucus, Disability Caucus, Latino Caucus, Asian American Caucus and more- we will see what unfolds.</p>

	<p>General Meeting format will begin with a speaker, film and then a moderated discussion. Teachers are invited to participate. Looking to have sub-committees who wish to work collaboratively with the teachers and administration on Achievement Gap, Hurtful Word Policy, Caring Community, Buddy Program, Restorative Justice.</p> <p>Caucus Meetings will be safe spaces for parents to air grievances and work towards positive solutions.</p> <p>Our hope is that this format allows the space for frank talk and full participation by all of us stakeholders; parents, teachers, administration. After all, it's all about the KIDS! If we don't model it they won't do it.</p>
<p>9. Gardening/PG</p>	<p>The stumps have been removed. Some of the boxes fell apart at that time which is why the courtyard looks a bit beat up at this point.</p> <p>We have a former Crocker Student, Kyle Stuart Willis who is a senior in the Engineering Academy at Oakland Tech who is working to get his Eagle Scout award. To this end, he must find a project to lead. He will be leading this one under the guidance of the Edible Garden Committee.</p> <p>Working off a sketch of the garden that was made last year, he will plan the building of the garden from top to bottom. He also has access to young people who do community service building projects, so other than come up with the money, there is little we will have to do. The nice thing is, he must complete this by December. So it will not linger.</p> <p>The only outstanding issue is money. We used all our money up to remove trees/stumps. At this point, we'll only have about \$300 for all of next year (assuming the budget is approved). However, we're working with Arpad who is doing the playground project to get some money donated. We aren't sure exactly how much we need yet. Kyle will figure that out for us before the PTA meeting. Then we'll either get it through the targeted fund raising, or we'll ask to increase our budget for next year (given that there now appears to be some surplus money available).</p> <p>Kristin Anderson is on our committee; she'll be doing the curriculum and working with staff to get kids out there once the garden is built.</p> <p>Any questions? Let Hilary Stoermer know.</p>
<p>10.Green</p>	<p>Still looking for a Chair for this Committee</p>
<p>11.Health/Safety</p>	<p>Provided flu information to the principal. Are looking into installing water-free gel dispenser in the school</p>

12. Hospitality	Tamara Zirkle and Violet Nelson are the Hospitality Committee at Crocker. So far we have hosted a picnic for new families and incoming kindergarteners this past Sunday (Aug 30), and a coffee/bagels/doughnuts reception for kinder parents on the first day (Aug 31).
13. Library	The library committee is sponsoring a book swap on Friday, September 25. Book drop off will be before school Mon - Thurs the same week. This year the library will be open during some lunches and after school for a short time - schedule will be announced when we figure it out!
14. Lunchtime/recess volunteer	Ms. Rhine would like at least 2-3 parents in the lunchroom and on the playground during each lunch period. She is developing guidelines for kids and adults, and will be training parent volunteers on a date TBD. The Lunch Team will be using new volunteer management web-based software called Shiftboard for scheduling volunteers. We hope to have that rolled out by next week. So far, we've had a great response from parents and grandparents agreeing to be volunteers--thanks to all! More folks are always welcome to join the Lunch Team. Contact Lisa Puntillo at 502-5039 or lisakp@pacbell.net for more information.
15. Membership	Theresa McCauley is collecting membership dues and getting cards to the members.
16. Parent Outreach/Buddy	TB testing: Tues. 9/15 in the MPR \$25.00 check made out to: Crocker Highlands PTA or cash (exact change) Kaiser members get a free TB shot, just bring the form to school Must be able to return Thursday 9/17 in MPR for TB reading Anyone that has an expired TB test will be notified by email after Labor Day (by Melissa Luna)
17. Photographer	Terri Phelan was spotted taking pictures for the website at the Spaghetti Feed!
18. Room Parents	Karen Eisenberg and Jill Prather are the room parent coordinators. We are currently working on revising the Room Parent Handbook and will be having an orientation get together with all the room parents after Back to School Night. We would like to let all the PTA chairpersons (and principal) know that our weekly emails to the room parents will go out on Wednesdays. Any information that anyone would like to include in that email should be emailed to both Karen and Jill by that Monday afternoon.
19. Service Day	Phylis Kramer and Debbie Chernoff are working on Community Service for the school. Since this is new to Crocker, they are researching what other schools have done as well as shaping their own ideas for this position. They are hoping to share some ideas with the PTA by the October meeting.
20. Technology	Have relentlessly updated the new website
21. Volunteer	The Volunteer Coordinators, Tamara Shannon and Jennifer Cohen, have coordinated and distributed the summer mailing. We have reached out to recruit volunteers through the summer

21. Volunteer	The Volunteer Coordinators, Tamara Shannon and Jennifer Cohen, have coordinated and distributed the summer mailing. We have reached out to recruit volunteers through the summer mailing and sign-ups at the new parent meeting, on the PTA bulletin board and at the Spaghetti Feed. We have also evaluated Volunteer Management software.
22. Webmaster	Have relentlessly updated the new website
23. Wishlist	Shelley Charney has the 'Teacher Wish Lists', and has composed a flyer that will be distributed tomorrow to the teachers/staff via their office mail slot/cubby. They may respond either via e-mail (to me) or via hard-copy that can be dropped off in the office.