

Claremont Immersion School
PTA General Membership Meeting
December 1, 2015

PTA President Introduction: Amber Dungan

Amber began the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explained that Jorge would lead the evening's meeting.

South Arlington Working Group Update (SAWG): Bill Gillen

Bill began by reviewing the capacity issue and the previous recommendations that the SAWG has agreed to and will move forward with. The Arlington County School Board will now go back to the county board and ask that their decision regarding the T.J. site be reconsidered.

Various Updates

Sarah Bohl announced that there will be a movie night held on January 8th. The movie will be in English. Vamos Adelante will be doing a movie in Spanish.

Isa Anderson also mentioned that Vamos Adelante will be holding an event this Friday that will showcase a Trompo game event.

Susie Wallin announced that the Green Kids club is starting up in January.

Dayna Davitz reminded the attendees that the Enrichment Program's registration will be open online on December 9th.

Treasurer: Beth Addington

Beth explained that the CIS PTA's taxes were filed in January, and that the PTA was given tax exempt status.

Currently, the PTA executive board is reviewing the budget for the current year- any time the budget exceeds a certain threshold, the PTA will need to review it and make a budgetary adjustment. This adjustment will be voted on in the January meeting.

Beth then gave the group a summary of what the PTA has funded thus far.

VP of Fundraising: Melissa Schwaber

Melissa explained that all orders for Spiritwear were processed the week before Thanksgiving, and that the last one was put in today. Anyone that may have something wrong with their order should email Lyzbeth Monard.

Melissa then mentioned armchair fundraising, and explained that funds raised go towards all of the programs previously mentioned. In addition, the silent auction will start ramping up after Xmas. The location is pending.

Donations for the Arlington bookshelf are still being accepted.

The book fair will run from Dec 7th through the 10th, and it coincides with the science fair. There will be an open house for teachers to come and make wish lists for their books, and there will be a box in the library to drop in donated books that are purchased to support the Giving Tree. Volunteers are needed to help the students write down their wish lists and help them locate their books. The book fair will not be open on Friday.

Principal's update: Jessica Panfil

Jessica welcomed everyone and explained that December is busy month at school. One of the very important items that the staff begins work on this month is the School Management Plan.

She also announced that Saturday is the CIS Family Fun Run, and there are currently 160 runners registered. In addition, the Winter Choral Concert and Winter Class Celebrations occur in December.

Jessica then spoke about academic achievement, and emphasized that one of CIS's goals is that all students achieve academic success in two languages. Students also set goals on a quarterly basis themselves. The CIS staff is here to support their students, and they won't let any child fail to meet this goal. Last year, CIS met all state accreditation targets. The school targets 80% of 3rd to 5th grade students to pass the SOLs. In addition, last year CIS raised their achievement as judged by the passing rates, meaning more students passed than before. Also of note is that Gap Group 1 was able to raise their achievement by 14 percentage points. CIS feels confident that they are learning the content and the language, and look to raise the achievement of Gap Group 1 to 72%.

APS is focused on the whole child, not necessarily solely their academic achievement. CIS is focused on their students being fully bilingual, and are particularly focused on improving Spanish writing. In the end, CIS staff believes that academic success is not just about passing the SOLs, but more about their graduates being global and successful bilingual citizens.