

**Cameron Park Elementary School  
PTGO General Meeting  
Thursday, April 8, 2010  
6:30 PM**

In attendance: Karen Coulombe, Amy Hughes, Dr. Terry Rogers, Chris Roman, Lynda Wileman, Beverly Garcia, Christie Barker-Cummings, Neil Jones, Carolyn Phillips, Stephanie Clark, Kristin Sikes, Kristi Geib, Kelly Keadey, Ron Sellers, Sandy Chandler, Louise Long, Twyla Wilson, Laura Casey, Lisa Welch, Wandra Whitford, Beth Anello, Mary Burns, Tammy Baker, Ann Burton

Meeting called to order at 6:35 P.M.

A. Meeting Commencement

1. Roll Call of PTGO Executive Board – quorum achieved.
2. Adopt or Amend Agenda – agenda adopted as written.
3. Approve or Amend Minutes, March 11, 2009 – minutes approved as written.

B. Public Comments –

1. Debbie Piscitelli – Debbie is a parent representative on the Orange County School Board and wanted to clarify some information about future re-districting plans. In her role on the board, she has been focusing on assuring that the process of re-districting is thoughtful and objective. Debbie has heard rumors that she is encouraging re-districting of specific neighborhoods to specific schools, and wants to go on record that this claim is untrue. She encouraged parents to be careful in interpreting what we hear during the school board re-election campaign, and to also be active in the current re-election process and to ask questions. She also encouraged us to speak with Superintendent Rhodes about re-districting after the meeting. Neil Jones then raised the question to Dr. Rogers as to whether this public statement by Debbie was appropriate given that other candidates were not present to represent themselves. Dr. Rogers stated her belief that Ms. Piscitelli was simply making a public comment to dispel fear and rumors, and noted that she had given prior permission for Debbie to do so. Dr. Rogers inquired as to whether the PTGO would like to invite school board members to a future meeting, however, it was decided this would occur too late in the election process. Neil encouraged parents to attend the April 14<sup>th</sup> open forum meeting (7 PM) at Cedar Ridge high school to meet all school board candidates. Dr. Rogers will also send a notice and make a Connect Ed call to inform CP parents of this meeting.
2. Laura Casey - announced that the All-County Art Show is this Saturday from 1-4 PM at the Burwell School. All are welcome, and many CP children will have art work displayed.

C. Superintendent Patrick Rhodes – see attached Local Budget Request summary and Powerpoint presentation for details.

Sup. Rhodes commented on the general state of the economy. Things are improving in the state, but recovery is slow and the state is predicting about 3 years until a return to pre-recession levels. Thus, without greatly increasing taxes, state and county budgets for schools will be very lean. Orange County schools experienced about a 5.5 million reduction in funds in 2009-2010. Eighty five percent of the budget is accounted for by salaries and benefits, thus the reductions resulted in cutting of positions. The county took these hard cuts last year and this year is in a better position to absorb the continued deficits in funding. Schools need to be both effective and efficient in these times. Federal funds actually doubled up to about 8% due to the stimulus programs. 2010-2011 state funding reductions involve the areas of discretionary funding (schools can decide), textbook funding elimination, and driver education funding, totaling an additional 860,000. We can absorb these cuts. The bad news is the county may cut another 3% or 1.1 million dollars, and this will result in even larger classes in grades 4-12 (the class size cap was eliminated last year),

and possibly more staffing cuts. Sup. Rhodes said he needs our help and appealed to us to do grass roots lobbying – parents should contact local legislators (information is on the OC schools website) to lobby for no further cuts, and suggest other ways to raise revenue (e.g., raise sin taxes for alcohol and tobacco, etc.). Parents should emphasize that we are not asking for more money, only that we get the same per pupil allocation for next year.

Question and Answer: Chris Roman asked about the best way to contact legislators and Sup. Rhodes indicated email, a personal letter, or phone calls. Another parent asked what the state lottery funds are really used for in education, and whether they could be used to purchase textbooks. Sup. Rhodes explained that they are used for certain facilities improvements (such as a new a/c unit), but cannot be used for textbooks. Dr. Rogers asked about the Capital Improvement funds from the county, and he said CP is slated to get a new chiller (a/c).

D. Treasurer's Report – Kristi Geib – (see attached budget for details)

1. Summary / Highlights: The Spring Fundraiser (auction) raised \$9882. There is still some money for Birthday Board; funds for Grounds Improvement and Science were spent for Earth Day activities; some teachers still have funds available in Teacher Allocation; and we have paid out the new maintenance line item of \$3080 for the walkie talkies using profits from the Coupon Book fundraiser. Any unused funds in any of the allocated accounts will roll over for next year if not spent (e.g., technology).
2. Vallyre Hyers has many checks paid for yearbook that she has not had a chance to deposit – this was discussed at length because there is a worry that many checks will bounce because they were written long ago and people are on tight budgets. Dr. Rogers and Karen Coulombe will follow-up with Vallyre to see if someone can assist her in getting them deposited. Suggestions were made regarding how to better handle the process in the future. Dr. Rogers motioned to formulate a process for receiving and depositing funds by the PTGO, and to then amend the bylaws with that process. Motion was seconded.

E. Cameron Park (CP) Updates - Dr. Rogers

1. We received notice that the matching funds grant from the Orange County Schools' Board of Education for \$1000 was approved.
2. Dr. Rogers thanked the PTGO for the funds for the Poe Center trip for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and for the funds for the new walkie talkies.
3. Three additional teachers have applied for national board certification and are in the exam process.

F. Old Business –

- 1) Ms. Annelo (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) made a budget request of approximately \$560 to continue Scholastic news subscriptions for next year.
- 2) Ms. Wahlers requested \$1000 for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip for next year.
- 3) The Earth Day committee has asked for a line item of \$1000 to be added to next year's budget.

G. New Business

1. Introduction of members running for the Executive Board: There are 4 parent positions open, and 4 nominees. These include Dawn Bishop, Maggie Weinstein, Neil Jones, and Chris Roman. Voting was conducted and all four above nominees were elected to the PTGO for the 2010-2011 school year.
2. Ms. Twyla Wilson discussed the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Cameron Park back in 2006. At that time, much time and parental effort was spent in cleaning up the grounds, preserving the historical legacy (one room schoolhouse, etc.) and giving the school a facelift. Since that time, many of those improvements have decayed. She proposed a new sub-committee be added within the PTGO, because the current Grounds Improvement and Beautification committee efforts are focused on special projects (fall festival and Earth Day). This sub-committee would be focused on preserving CP's living legacy as well as improving the streetscape. Dr. Rogers

discussed the rare trees on the property, access to the Eno River, the old Native American trading path, and many more things that make CP rich in history. A motion was made to create this subcommittee – motion seconded and passed.

H. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 P.M.

**Next meeting: May 13, 2010  
6:30 PM PTGO Meeting**