

Clifton School PTA General Meeting

February 5, 2014

Clifton Campus

Finance Update

- Presented by PTA treasurer Rebekah Tiller

Auction

- **General Info**
 - ticket price: \$35 for parents, \$25 for teachers
 - location: Cox Hall Ballroom on Emory Campus
 - date and time: Saturday, March 29th, 5:30 – 9:00
- **Donations:** PTA will contact businesses that have previously donated. If you have a business would like to approach for a donation, please email the PTA to let them know (cliftonschoolpta@gmail.com) so we can confirm they have not already been contacted.
- **Volunteers for Set Up:** <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080448ADAC29A20-2014>
- **Class Baskets:** Each classroom donates a basket for the silent auction valued at \$50 - \$70. The basket can consist of item purchased with class funds or donated by parents. PTA will send out a list of basket ideas to the room reps. Baskets need to be ready by March 14th.

Question: Will there be babysitting at the school available?

Answer: Yes, same price as Parent's Night Out.

Parking situation at both campuses

- **Clairmont Campus**
 - **Issue:** parking spots taken by staff?
 - **Response:** Administration has reiterated to staff they cannot park in the school lot. 5 cars have been identified as regularly parking "illegally" throughout the day. 2 belong to parents (they have been notified) and 3 others are unknown, but notes have been left on the cars.

Question: What about requiring hang tags or stickers for parents?

Answer: Administration worries about when other guardians come to pick up kids (their cars will not be identified). The stickers/hangtags also came from Emory and they now refuse to patrol our lot due to issues with people fighting the tickets.

Question: Are there signs posted that the lot is for Clifton School only?

Answer: yes – at both campuses.

Question: Can parents get a copy of the letter administration put on the cars so we can do the same?

Answer: yes

Comment: Emory Parking Services should be contacted. They may be able to identify the cars by the license plates if they are employees trying to avoid paying for parking in the deck. (Parent making the comment offered to share the contact information with administration).

- **Issue:** parking for parties/events
 - **Response:** Teachers will remind parents to park in the deck for parties/events. Administration will try to have a staff member or intern out in the lot to remind parents.
- **Clifton Campus**
 - **Issue:** lines hard to see and some cars end up parked straight and some at a slant
 - **Response:** lines will be repainted 2/8
 - **Issue:** congestion

- **Response:** hopefully line painting will alleviate. School lot is actually the overflow lot when CDC has events (unavoidable).
- **Issue:** fast driving through parking lot
- **Response:** will post larger “slow” sign.

Parents Night Out (aka babysitting offered on a weekend night at the school)

- Next one: 2/15, 6:00 – 10:00, \$25 for first child, \$15 for each additional
- Will try to do one quarterly, if successful, may increase frequency

Comment: All money raised goes to the Teacher’s Council. They pay for the staff working the Parent’s Night Out and any leftover money is used for their activities.

Question: What is the age limit of kids that can attend?

Answer: Up to 12 years old, as long as the family currently has a child enrolled at the school.

Valentine’s Day Breakfast – Friday, February 14th (postponed to 2/18 due to weather)

- Parents bring in a breakfast item (food or drink) for the teachers to enjoy
- This year parents can bring in whatever they’d like
- Request from teachers – less sweets, more variety

School food quality (Primrose class lead discussion)

- Would like the school to use fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables vs. canned
- Would like the school to serve organic milk

Comment: Organic milk is extremely expensive. The school does serve hormone free milk.

Comment: The Administration and kitchen staff are open to discussing the menus and food choices with 1 – 2 parents (this was also done about a year ago). The kitchen staff are available to meet 2/17, 2:00 – 4:00

Question: Who is the school’s food provider?

Answer: U.S. Foods as part of CHOA’s contract.

Comment: Emory’s current food provider is Sodexo and their contract is up sometime this year. Emory is requiring their new vendor to use 75% local and/or sustainable foods (and Sodexo is working towards that). The school should look into being a part of that new contract. (Parent making the comment offered to share the contact information with administration).

Question: How can we increase the amount of food provided to the children? One particular class has had several children complaining of not getting enough milk or food, to the point where parents were bringing in extra snacks for the class. Another parent commented that during breakfast it seems there is only one serving per child, even though some may want to eat more.

Answer: There is always plenty of food available; the teachers just need to request it from the kitchen. There is always 1.5 servings per child sent to each room. If a room consistently needs more, they can request the kitchen to permanently change how much is sent.

Question: Could the schools be a CSA pick up spot? Convenient for parents and extra produce could be donated to the kitchen.

Answer: The school will look into it and see if there is enough of an interest.

Tadpole.com

- alternative to current sign in/out procedures, daily diary, etc
- parent Mansi Shah Das lead discussion

Comment: Administration has researched this application. They have not implemented a system in a school as large as ours. The product is also limited to only Apple devices at this time (teachers would need iPads or iTouches to input information, parents would need an apple device to download the app). In general, they are open to an electronic system. There are some general concerns about keeping up with additional devices in the classroom and the bandwidth problem at the Clairmont site.

Comment: Initial expense could come from money raised by the auction. The maintenance costs could come from a tuition increase (would only be around \$30 per child).

Question: What about iPads in the classroom being taken?

Answer: Another school that uses Tadpole stores the iPads in the administration office to be locked up and charged every night. The teachers then check them out every day.

Comment: The kids may be distracted by the teachers using iPads.

Question: What about extra time needed from teacher for a new program?

Answer: Teachers should definitely do a trial run to see the impact. Tadpole.com does offer a pilot.