

Friends of Cuter Meeting Minutes 3/13/15

Sarah Olson - Welcome

Jenn Clifford introduced the Math Task Force our guest speakers. The task force has been together for just over 2 years. They are a group of teachers district wide with representation from each grade who work closely with Christine Fischera our district math specialist. They have been looking at the curriculum to see that it aligns with the common core. Through teacher development and workshops they have enhanced our curriculum to more closely align with the new standards.

Melissa Graham presented a sample of 5th grade math work and how kids are working together to solve problems using diagrams, visual pictures to solve complex multi step problems

Allison Goodchild presented a sample of what they are doing in Kindergarten counting “bears in a cave.” Her curriculum consists of many different math games and teaches the basics of problem solving and addition and subtraction.

Mary Adamik presented the 1st grade math standards and how kids learn from “not yet” problems in which they learn from mistakes. The focus is more on the thought process behind solving problems. Teaching children to be problem solvers as opposed to rote memorization of facts.

All three teachers provided handouts providing more details on the math curriculum. If anyone would like copies please feel free to contact Kathleen o’Connor.

Amy Howell presented on our Free money initiatives. In our last Box Top drive we collected 3777 box tops which will result in a check for \$377. First grade won the grand prize for collecting the most box tops and has earned extra recess. Kindergarten, 1st and second grade all will receive free tickets for the Cake Walk at family fun night in May. This has been our best year yet for box top collection. Crosby’s receipts need to be in by March 31st.

Kathleen O’Connor presented the minutes of the previous FOC meeting for approval. The minutes were voted upon and approved.

Jen Clifford gave an update on the state of the playground. Recess has been tough with the snow mounds restricting visibility and therefore has limited places the kids can go. Teacher workshops are going on. A writing specialist has been working with the teachers on various teacher development initiatives. They have been focusing on language arts and on whats working within the common core. MCAS have been pushed back because of snow days. The district has opted to take advantage of the extra time the state is offering.

Ken Swanson presented the budget. Ken will be looking into a glitch with the Amazon link and Amazon Smile program.

Sarah Olson presented on behalf of Pat Krysiak (who was not present) an update on Cultural Enrichment. The recent Origami program was a huge success. Change is Simple is coming back for second session. Each class will make a wind turbine which will all be on display on Family Fun Night. CIS will also be present on family Night Night to do an activity with the children. Audubon will also come and do a kite making activity. The HW EdFund is planning a “minute to Win it” event. It is currently scheduled the same day our adult social. They are looking into rescheduling it. They are also considering hosting a booth at our family fun night along this theme. In June there will be an afro-Brazilian dance troupe coming to Cutler. In April the STEAM cart will change over from Origami to engineering.

Jeannine Ryan presented an update on the Adult Social. April 10th 7-11 at the Wenham Museum! There will be a taco bar. Desserts will be donated by Cutler parents. There be an open bar with an assortment of cocktails many of which will be donated. There is an exciting mix of auction items available ahead of time via the online auction and the silent auction and raffle on the night of the event.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen O'Connor, Secretary