**Haycock PTA Meeting Minutes**

April 15, 2015 7:30 pm

**1. Call to Order and President’s Report**

1. Whereupon at 7:30 p.m. Karen Leiser called to order the general meeting of the Haycock PTA. Karen asked people to please sign in and informed everyone that we’re going to get through the business portion of our meeting first and then get to guest speakers. Per the sign-in sheets, there were 87 people in attendance. Christie Johnson made a motion to begin the meeting. Tara Tanner seconded, and there were no objections.
2. Tonight is the night that we nominate our Executive Committee members for next year. A lot of people on the current executive committee are stepping down. Leanne King, from the Nominating Committee, offered this slate of officers:
   1. Vice President: Alison Seddon
   2. President Elect: Neetha Rao
   3. Secretary Katie Pisocky
   4. Treasurer: Heather Kimmel
   5. VP of Curriculum Enhancement: Alicia Hoadley
3. We still need a VP of Fundraising, a VP of Social Events, and a VP of Community Affairs. Plus, we don’t have a PTA President next year. Please consider stepping up and joining the PTA board. Karen assured everyone that there are a lot of committee positions which have already been filled and executive committee work doesn’t have to be all consuming. The work has been very manageable this year. We rely on volunteers. We will nominate the slate tonight and elect them officially in May. Leanne King made a motion to nominate the slate of officers. Sally Johnson seconded. All were in favor, none opposed and the motion carried.

**2. Treasurer’s Report (Heather Kimmel):**

1. Budget reports are available in the back. Two things to emphasize:
   1. On Page 3 under School Support you can see that the budgeted $22,000 for technology has already been spent. The PTA gave $6200 at the beginning of the year and is giving the remaining amount $15,800 at the end of this month. Thank you for the generosity!
   2. If you look at the fundraising total up five lines from the bottom on Page 1, you can see we have made over $107,000.00, and we have a $29,000 overage. That really comes from the auctions. So how can we use our funds most effectively for the school?
2. Christie Johnson: The renovation is ahead of schedule which is great, but it means we have to move faster and order furniture and supplies now. Dr. Sheers was given a budget from the county. Over the year, Dr. Sheers and Ms. Shannon inventoried the whole building and spoke to teachers and students about what types of furnishings they need or would want for their classrooms. They have done a lot and negotiated with supply and furniture companies. But, at the end of the day, there is still not enough money to get everything they want. The Ex Com talked and Christie, on their behalf, is making a motion to increase the budget reserve by $40,000.00 so that it would be $50,000.00 total and the funds could be made available to Dr. Sheers for the purchase of new furniture and renovation related supplies. Tara Tanner seconded the motion.
   1. Before voting, however, a parent asked about the playground—wasn’t the reserve for the playground?
      1. When we last got a playground, 20 years ago, the McLean Community Citizen’s Association gave us a $15K grant, and we’re hopeful they will give us the grant again. We will keep a total of $15 K in our playground fund. The county also gives us a certain amount of funds for the playground. And, there is nothing saying we can’t add to the playground over time. With money that Fairfax County provides plus our 30K, we’ll get a decent playground. We are not depleting from money we’ve already raised for that purpose, and we need to remember that we won’t be able to fund every expense resulting from the renovation in one year.
      2. Another teacher noted that Anne Rosenbaum wrote that grant 20 years ago.
   2. Parent: we are supposed to be hearing about budget issues tonight—can we wait to vote on this until after we’ve heard about the budget?
      1. Christie Johnson: We have $25K left so that if we need to support school operations, we can still buy lots of other things for the school.
      2. Sally Johnson: Please keep in mind we can’t buy additional teachers. We can’t pay the salaries of teachers or instructional assistants. What we can do is provide lots of money for the school so the principal can use funds elsewhere (on salaries, e.g.). Dr. Sheers provided example: If the PTA provides materials for science program, she doesn’t have to and she can use those funds on other things.
      3. Christie Johnson: We think this a good idea to do at this time. We think our dollars will go further. We are not depleting our funds. We are being prudent.
      4. Parent: We should hear everything about the budget before we commit money to anybody.
         1. Christie—We earmarked money towards the renovation with the approval of the parent community. In September there was nothing to do. Now there is a need.
         2. Victoria Lippincott: The school gets a discount for bulk buying. We would lose buying power if we wait. If we don’t act, we could end up paying 40-60 percent more. Dr. Sheers pointed out it takes three months to get delivery of the furniture.
      5. Parent suggested putting off the vote until later tonight after hearing from Janie Strauss and Fabio Zuluaga, not putting the motion off indefinitely. Vote was tabled until later tonight.
3. Karen Leiser noted that teacher, Donna Emanuel is in attendance and is retiring and the PTA thanked her for her work. Ms. Emanuel received a standing ovation.

**3. General VP (Alison Seddon)**

We have extra student directories, available for purchase for $5.00. She will be around after meeting, if anyone is interested in purchasing them.

**4.** **Vice President of Social Events (Laura Sachwitz)**

Next event is Fun Run on May 16th at Longfellow.

**5. VP of Curriculum Enhancement** (**Tara Tanner)**

Junior Achievement is coming to your classroom soon. Art Appreciation has one more

session, and the Brain Show is in June.

**6**. **VP of Fundraising (Christie Johnson)**

Restaurant Day is at Café Rio on May 4th. We get 20% of purchases for the whole day. Quattro de Mayo. Have to have the flyer with you or on your phone—we’re not allowed to hand them out at the restaurant.

**7. VP of Community Affairs (Victoria Lippincott)**

1. We’re in the middle of Autism Awareness month. Wear blue on Friday. The kids will also be doing an art project in support of those with autism.
2. Next PTA meeting is at 7:00 instead of 7:30 because we’re going to have a book review type discussion on The Good Enough Child by Brad Sachs. Mimi Weisberg, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Safe Community Coalition Board Member will facilitate a books discussion after the meeting from 7:30 until 9:00. The book is available for purchase on Amazon. Go through the school’s page to earn money for Haycock!

**8. Secretary (Amy Kales)**

Amy Kales indicated the minutes from March’s meeting were in the back and asked for a motion to approve them. Leanne King so moved. Victoria Lippincott seconded. All were in favor, none were opposed, so the motion carried.

**9. Principal’s Report (Dr. Sheers)**

1. Thank you to all those that volunteered and helped us unpack on Monday – 15 classes have moved. The new wing is just beautiful. Gorgeous classrooms. It is very stressful to move, and we had a last minute delay—but we were able to get some substitutes, so thank you to Dr. Zuluaga for his support in that.
2. First grade is moving on the evening of the 30th. We will also be moving into the new cafeteria and the pod will be under renovation. Summer will be really busy. We are 8 months ahead of schedule, and the bulk of the renovation occurred in one year—so that is pretty amazing. Students in SCA are working on the time capsule which will be placed soon.
3. The school wide field trip is coming up. Dr. Sheers showed the field trip t-shirts. “Stress Less, Laugh More” will be the theme of the week leading up to field trip. Ms. Shannon and Dr. Sheers have seen increased stress levels in kids and teachers.
4. Chrissy Brownson (5th grade teacher and Haycock parent) noted that this will be a school wide field trip--900 kids and 200 parents and lots of teachers, and we’ll be hiking and playing games. One of Chrissy’s friends works on Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move campaign, so hopefully there will be some cool publicity for Haycock.
5. We really need a PTA president! Please consider stepping up.
6. We had kindergarten orientation last week. 80 students are enrolled for next year already—which is a lot to have enrolled at this point. This year we have 84 kindergartners enrolled. We are at 888 total student population right now.

**10. Guest Speaker—Janie Strauss**.

1. Ms. Strauss wants to thank Dr. Sheers. Renovations are tough, and the Haycock community is very lucky to have Dr. Sheers and Ms. Shannon as advocates.
2. Big picture: Fairfax County is very large. Our budget is 2.6 billion. We have cut 1/2 billion dollars even though we are growing. There are areas of big concern:

* We are not competitive on salaries for our educators. #1 priority is 3.5 percent pay raise for teachers. This will not solve problem, but it is a start. Teachers make 15-20K more in Arlington. We have lots of people moving away because it’s too expensive to live here.
* Ms. Strauss promises that there will be no staffing cuts for next year. Principals need to be able to interview and offer contracts now. That is a commitment she can make. We will not cut staffing or change formulas for next year.
* There will be about $4 million into the staffing reserve so all classes will be under 30. We are committed to the idea that all elementary school classes will be under 30—in all schools, including schools with higher populations. How the staff is parsed out [assigned] is ultimately up to Dr. Zuluaga and Dr. Sheers.

1. We are working with consultants to determine how many students we will actually have. This is a high value school. Supportive PTA. Many people want to come and live here. This corner of the county and the McLean pyramid is highly sought after. We expect to see continual growth.
2. Cost drivers:
   1. Increased pay for employees.
   2. Additional staffing for the staffing reserve.
   3. Additional money in budget for continued student growth.
   4. Special education students have been increased. $4 million additional in that area.
   5. Additional funding since we have full day Mondays. They have to work to build in planning time during the school day to compensate for teachers’ lost planning time.
   6. High schools will be starting later. In order for that to happen, we need to buy more buses to make sure that elementary schools are not starting earlier than 8:10—we don’t want elementary school children waiting for busses in the dark. It’s a two hour cycle to get everyone to school—we are compressing that cycle so school opening time will go until 9:20. Middle schools will start about 7:30. Over time we’d like to push that back, but it’s a matter of money.
   7. School Budget has been forwarded to the Board of Supervisors (“BOS”)—we were about 14 million apart. As we stand now we are about 8 million apart. BOS hasn’t put in 13 million for capital improvements and we are still negotiating about that.
3. There is a growing discussion regarding whether the Commonwealth is doing its constitutional job to provide funding necessary for education. They are supposed to recognize 55% of the real costs of education—it’s not just a temporary funding decline, the state has gone back on what it sees as necessary.
4. 72-73% of budget comes from local taxes. The school board does not have taxing authority, which is why we deal with the Board of Supervisors, not directly with the citizens.
5. Elephant in the room—Although it looks like we’ll be okay next year—we don’t see anything that will destabilize Haycock—but in 2017, there will be more funding issues. We expect another 100 million dollar deficit. Ms. Strauss is working closely with BOS.
6. Capital Improvement—Renovations and new schools are paid out of bonds. There are bonds every other year. For Haycock the renovation cost about 20 million.
   1. Amount on capital is dependent on collected taxes.
   2. If we were to keep up with enrollment and needs, we would need 250 million.
   3. We started school last year with 1000 trailers. Lots of over-crowded schools. Where possible we are adding on to schools as far as the zoning will allow. We are expanding Westgate, Kent Gardens can’t be added on to, McLean High School likely will be expanded again. We are just finishing Marshall and Langley is under renovation. In some parts of the county we are in critical situations. Long term—do we need another high school?
   4. Development is going to continue. Metro going down the Dulles corridor.
7. Victoria Lippincott: Thank you for the background, but how is growth going to affect us? We’ll be overcrowded once renovation is complete. How will we—Haycock Elementary School--be impacted? Ms. Strauss responded:
   1. Capital movement program—There will be a large wing built at Franklin Sherman. There is a longer term plan to renovate and expand Pimmit. Once Franklin Sherman is expanded, there may be center adjustments or redistricting.
   2. Parent asked if Haycock students might end up at Pimmit? Ms. Strauss said she doubts it.
   3. Short term—Add space at Franklin Sherman. More space at Chesterbrook—perhaps. Parent: Are we looking at program changes or boundary changes? Ms. Strauss responded:
      1. First program. Then redistricting. More expensive and complicated to redistrict.
   4. Sally Johnson: Wouldn’t Pimmit be split?
      1. The Pimmit situation wouldn’t likely occur during your children’s time.
   5. Parent asked--For next year—what are we going to do with all of our students?
      1. We will be applying for future use and ask for a zoning reconsideration and it takes a full year to do that and that is really for a future plan.
      2. What will we do next year? We will continue to look at it. Renovation will not be done at the start of the year.
      3. Dr. Sheers: We will be keeping a minimum of two quads and maybe a duplex.
      4. Janie: The modular has to go. In order to get an occupancy permit, which we want at the start of the year, we need to be able to provide parking spaces. Ms. Strauss says the removal of the mod will be done over the summer. We’ve asked for a temporary zoning variance. We weren’t given one. The modular is a permanent structure. We would only be able to get a variance if there were a catastrophic event.
      5. Victoria Lippincott asked: Is it not a catastrophic event that we’ll be done with a renovation and be overcrowded at the start? Janie—yeah but we can’t guarantee that is going to be the case.
         1. Victoria: Louise Archer got a temporary zoning variance. Janie: They are going to have to give it back.
         2. Victoria: We should have space for our population until you guys figure out what we’re going to do.
            1. Janie: A lot will be dependent on what we see. Bottom line: Your children will be at the school. No boundary changes and no redistricting for next year.
         3. Victoria: It would be nice if the community has enough time to talk about any change in program.
         4. Janie: We need to get this renovation completed and give community enough time to discuss. The issue before the renovation was that Haycock was so overcrowded that it couldn’t carry on as it was.
      6. Stephanie Luongo to Ms. Strauss: If we don’t know enrollment for next year—we aren’t sure we have enough space here. What we’re looking for is advocacy for our community. When you were here prior to the renovation, we [the Haycock community] said you’re not looking at our projections. Now we’re in April and we’re told we’re losing the modular. And we’ve [the Haycock community] known your projections were off all along. We would love advocacy to have the modular on a temporary basis. We are not hearing that we’ll have space and it will be a good learning environment. We’ve been saying and the student population numbers have been saying there is growth and a shift.
         * 1. Ms. Strauss: The county will not give us a variance because of the parking. If we put that off, then it is another year before you can occupy the building.

Dr. Sheers: We can’t keep the modular and we won’t be able to occupy unless it is gone. That has been advocated for by everyone (Ms. Strauss, Dr. Zuluaga, Dr. Sheers herself). It has to go. The quads will be enough and if it’s not they’ll give us more.

* + - * 1. Ms. Strauss: 877 is the projected reasonable size of this school.
        2. Dr. Zuluaga: I am very familiar with the building. Haycock will have enough classrooms. We [he and Dr. Sheers] discuss this nearly every day. We will have the classrooms to accommodate the students.
        3. Ms. Strauss: We have the possibility to add another 8-10 classrooms at Franklin Sherman and that can be done sooner rather than later. We have plans to address that.
        4. Parent asked: Keeping kids in pyramid is not the same as keeping them at Haycock? Janie: Correct. With some program adjustments, that will provide seats for 150-200 more children—that is significant.
        5. Ms. Strauss: Even with increase in kindergarten class size, we don’t think we have to look at general education boundaries. Don’t want to do that unless you have to. She doesn’t see us having to do that.
        6. Cooper Middle has space.
        7. When we refer to program changes, we’re talking about AAP center changes. Haycock center students would still come here, Timber Lane would still come here and others.
        8. Parent: How much money is put into substitute teachers? Can that money be used for teachers themselves? We give a lot of money to staff development and technology. Quality of teachers is the most important thing. Do we have to dedicate money to staff development? We want to support our teachers but we want to support our children first. The children should come first.

**11. Guest Speaker: Fabio Zuluaga (Region 2 Assistant Superintendent).**

1. Dr. Zuluaga introduced himself. He is a former teacher and elementary school principal and now is the assistant superintendent for Region 2.
   * In response to parent’s question: In terms of the amount and need of professional development, it just depends on the needs of school. The use of substitute teachers is not excessive: Every quarter it is good for teachers to come together to talk about kids. At least 3-4 times per year.
   * Dr. Sheers—we give teachers half a day a quarter (to meet and plan) and then for training in a specific curriculum area they might get a day off every now and then. Other than a personal day or an illness, teachers haven’t been out of the room.
2. Parent: We have heard something about our science teacher being let go –is that true?
   * We haven’t received more or less teachers. What is different is the way we are going to use our staffing allocation.
   * Dr. Garza and Dr. Sheers and community members are saying pay attention to the class size. Some of the classes are getting too large. We thought—okay, let’s put a stop on classrooms getting larger than 30. We are going to make our best effort that K-2 don’t have classrooms above 27 kids. The reality is that teachers here are teaching 30 1st graders. It is very hard and unmanageable to have that many first graders in a room. In grades 4-6 we are going to try to not go larger than 30 students.
     + Now what can we do to use our resources to not go above 27 students. If we see that after maximizing our resources (including the assistants given to us) then if we still need more teachers then we go into the Fairfax County staffing reserve.
     + At this point, your science resource teacher position is on hold. We have to see how many teachers we need for classrooms—i.e. to make classroom sizes reasonable.
       - Parent asked what other positions are on hold. Dr. Zuluaga responded: Mrs. Rosenbaum the science resource teacher is currently on hold and the AART is likely to be half time. (Dr. Sheers noted that we are staffed half-time, although we’ve historically traded for full time).
3. Sally Johnson: It feels like FCPS is punishing largely populated schools. We’ve had to advocate in order to get our class sizes under 32. We’ve had to have parents and Dr. Sheers advocate fiercely to get to 30. We’re being punished because we have too many kids.

* + Victoria Lippincott: We are not being treated fairly. Haycock is large but we get no additional funding—we’re not a Title 1 school and we do not qualify for the needs based staffing formula. Other schools do receive additional funding and have extra money and can do more trades and they don’t have to forsake reasonable class sizes for resource teachers. Haycock gets the short end of the stick.

1. Two fifth grade students spoke and presented a petition to save Mrs. Rosenbaum’s job. Without Mrs. Rosenbaum, we will have no class pets, no hands on science. Quotation of Chinese proverb: “If I do, I understand.” Hands-on science learning is very important. We need our science teacher.
2. Ms. Strauss: We are concerned about large class size. Dr. Zuluaga: We don’t know how the numbers are going to break. I am hearing you. Last year we had to advocate for additional teachers.
   * Parent: We want Anne here! You are taking away our resources because we are a large school.
   * Chrissy Brownson—I am a parent at Haycock. I am a teacher at Haycock. I have 31 students in my class and I would do that for the next 10 years if I get to keep our science resource teacher. We have animals (seahorses!) in my class. When my son found out we might not have Mrs. Rosenbaum, he was devastated. He said “we’re losing the best thing about Haycock.”
     + Ms. Strauss: We are increasing the reserve. You would rather have larger class sizes and keep your science resource teacher?
     + Dr. Sheers—Without enough staffing, we might be looking not just at large class sizes, but at combination classes.
   * Parent/Teacher: I’m a parent and teacher. When you say we need to wait until numbers fall out, we are not going to get the best resources if we wait until the last minute. If we can’t have her [Anne Rosenbaum] now, I don’t think we’re getting her back.
   * Parent question: Isn’t the reading teacher a resource teacher? Why make the science teacher a resource teacher? In allocation, make her a class teacher.
     + Ms. Strauss: Reading has traditionally been seen as very important at the elementary level. “So is science” said a chorus of parents.
   * Dr. Zuluaga: How are we going to make sure our classes aren’t out of control and at the same time bring additional resources to school? This is the reality. He understands that it looks bad for the assistant superintendent, a former science teacher, to let go a science resource teacher. We are just short this year.
   * Dr. Zuluaga: We can’t go to the staffing reserve unless we use up all our other resources. We use resources in the building and we’re seeing several classrooms going over optimal numbers.
     + Sally Johnson: We already know we are going to use up all of our resources and we know we will have to go to the reserve.
     + Ms. Strauss: We have a value for additional teaching positions—if you value your resource teacher over class sizes, well then . . .
   * Teacher (Mrs. Kelly?): My understanding is that restrictions on trades is county wide. In region 2 all trades are approved by Dr. Zuluaga. Is that correct? The science program has been built over years and has added value to every single student and teacher here. We hope that when Dr. Sheers speaks, you will listen. When will there be a commitment to support our principal? We’re one of the best 15 elementary schools in the country. Dr. Sheers makes it that way. Anne Rosenbaum makes it that way.
     + - Dr. Zuluaga – We just don’t know numbers. I can’t over-promise. We don’t know numbers.
         * Sally Johnson: We’ve had to let teachers go and then at the last minute we have to scramble to get teachers from the reserve. It’s happened repeatedly,
   * Parent: We don’t want large class sizes. We don’t want to reduce the quality of our education. By taking away resource teachers you are stressing our teachers and hurting our students. We value our teachers. You are essentially punishing the school for its quality. Think about it economically. Think about the marginal cost. Very little cost in letting us keep our resource teachers compared to the tremendous benefit they provide.

.

* + Victoria Lippincott: There are 148 elementary schools in Fairfax. If you look at the amount spent per pupil, Haycock is the second thriftiest. It’s inequitable distribution. Haycock, Louise Archer, and Greenbrier West spend the least.
  + Ms. Strauss: We really appreciate your sense of what you want.
  + Parent asks about being creative—can the PTA pay Ms. Rosenbaum’s salary.
    - Ms. Strauss: No—PTA cannot buy teachers or pay for their salaries, by law.

* + Middle School student: I am a Haycock alumna. I learned from Mrs. Rosenbaum in the 4th grade. And then I understood science. I really appreciate all the work she has done.
  + Parent (to Ms. Strauss and maybe Dr. Zuluaga): I don’t think you understand what we’re saying:
    - Ms. Strauss: You’re saying that this community likes the way you have been staffed. Parent responds:
    - No. We’re not saying we like large class sizes and we’re not saying let’s balloon up the class sizes. We would like smaller/reasonable class sizes plus the additional resource teachers.
  + Parent: You are going to lose your tax base if you can’t start funding education properly. People move from all over to attend Fairfax County Schools and Haycock Elementary School specifically.
    - Ms. Strauss says she understands the parent’s view but the school board is not a taxing authority. Ms. Strauss supports an increase in tax base. She doesn’t have that authority, however.
  + Parent: Haycock brings in people from all over the world. Haycock specifically deserves full funding. We are in this position because you didn’t listen. There were lots of us that said your projections were not correct. Now we have choice of large class sizes or losing our resource teachers.
    - Ms. Strauss: You will get more teachers as your students enroll.

* + Parent asks about Franklin Sherman becoming a center. But not next year. What about kids that are already students at Haycock? Are they going to have to go back? Ms. Strauss: We would hope for a grandfathering in.
  + Parent: There is no budget. Every single school has the same amount of money. This school is overpopulated.
    - Ms. Strauss: Your staffing is determined by numbers of children.
    - You will still get 34 classroom teachers or more. If there are more children, then you will get more. The question is how you will decide to allocate or use your staff. You have to make a decision on how to distribute resources.
    - Parent asks if every school in the county has the same class sizes?
      * No. If you have a school on a poverty level, or ESOL students, they get smaller classes.
      * Parent—across the county, there are many schools that are sub -20. The distribution of resources is not equitable.
        + Ms. Strauss: We’ll look at it. If a school gets 50 more kids and they give two more teachers, but then enrollment doesn’t match, teachers will be taken back. That helps to use resources efficiently.
  + Parent: This is my first PTA meeting, so I want to be clear—The teachers are assigned by # of students. We could get five extra teachers and science teachers.
    - * Janie: We are under state limits. For every 26.75 students you get a classroom teacher (not resource teacher).
      * Parent says becoming a Title 1 and/or ESOL school seems to be only solution.
        + Ms. Strauss says the solution is to fund our schools better.
  + Parent: Funding the whole school system is obviously better. But he is still not clear, in terms of the budget allocation to individual schools—does every school get the same treatment?
    - * Poor schools get more teachers. Is that fair? And they have science programs? Not every school is being treated fairly.
        + Janie: Within Fairfax and Virginia we have to reach certain academic standards. As a public school system, we need all children to reach a certain level of academic achievement. Some children are going to need more help than others to get there. Not every child is able to learn with the same ease or resources. In order to balance that out—we have a differentiated staffing formula for children with greater needs. This is a standard policy throughout the country. Based on demonstrated data/needs, children of high poverty will need more help. Non-English speakers, disabled children--all need more resources and the formula is adjusted. Is it fair? It would be difficult for us to meet certain standards if every school got the exact same resources.
  + Parent Todd Johnston: We’ve heard from students and parents. I have two daughters. We couldn’t get the kids to talk at the dinner table about their day. Then, the oldest one, after starting at Haycock two years ago, came home talking about Mrs. Rosenbaum. Same with a six year old. If this were a Jenga game, you are pulling out the foundational blocks that hold the whole school together.
  + Parent: Reads a letter from her daughter written to Ms. Rosenbaum for teacher appreciation week. My kids came home excited about science instruction. Are there other options. Can we cut a super unpopular program?
  + Parent: Do we have any other option—I know we can’t hire anyone directly. But are there any other creative options? Is the only way we can get a resource teacher is if you give it to us?
    - Dr. Zuluaga: I can’t overpromise. Science and AAP are very important at Haycock. I grew up in South America. Fairfax is one of the best schools in the US. We want it all. Foreign language, Science, Art. In order to preserve this—we need money.
    - Parent—We’re paying for a lot. We are being penalized by our zip code. We get no federal dollars.
  + Parent: Program changes as opposed to boundary changes. Do we have 200 kids from Franklin Sherman?
    - Ms. Strauss: We are watching overall growth. We are looking where we can accommodate. We have to plan. If there is a change in program placement—it takes a year of community discussion. And then change can be made after that.
  + Victoria Lippincott: Is the $4 million staffing reserve in the budget?
    - Janie: That is in.
    - Victoria: Final budget is not voted on until May, though. Are we guaranteed that $4 million reserve staffing?
    - Money from BOS hasn’t been transferred yet. If they don’t transfer and fully fund 100% of the budget, then the board has to go back.
  + Parent— Parent—could we cut another resource teacher and keep the science teacher?
    - No.

1. Irene Levy: In the pod, there is expensive sound equipment and lighting—what is going to happen to that?
   * Dr. Sheers: The original plan was to have theatrical lighting stay in the pod and have the ceiling raised so everything didn’t hang down so low. Now there was a change in the plans and it won’t work. Ms. Strauss is going to look at it. Dr. Zuluaga and Dr. Sheers will have a meeting to discuss.
   * Sally Johnson: That is an important part of our tradition. We are feeding kids in cafeteria so the stage isn’t available for a large part of the day. Performances are very important to us. AND the PTA put a lot of money for the system, so if it cannot be used, we would like a check back.

**12) Budget Vote**

1. Christie Johnson: $50,000.00 does not use up PTA reserves. Funding the additional furniture wouldn’t take away our ability to help in other ways.
2. Vote was taken. All in favor. No objections, so the motion carried.

Whereupon, Leanne King made motion to adjourn. Katie Pisocky seconded. There were no objections. And at 9:50 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

**Amy Kales**

**Recording Secretary**