

Parent Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 4/10/12, 7:00 pm

Present: Mechelle Coppock, Chris Cozadd, Melissa Dana, Andy Gilmour, Kathleen Norman, Kathleen O'Connell, Colleen Parker, Chris Roussey, Jock Whittlesey, Monique Wong, Wally Zampella

I. Approval of 3/13 Meeting Minutes – Melissa

One change – Julie Griffin should read Julie Custer. All voted to approve.

II. Treasurer's Report – Kathleen O'Connell

Currently at \$13,844. Increase from last month from Scout dues and early-bird summer camp payments.

III. Role of the Scoutmaster in the PLC – Melissa

Melissa distributed Tony's draft language for the Troop Handbook, and second page she wrote up, breaking Tony's down into three key things SM does with PLC.

#1: At PLC, SPL comes with 3-month, pre-planned calendar, patrol assignments, etc. There needs to be consistency in the way the PLC meetings are run. Tony's were very different from Michael's. There are differing philosophies.

Chris R – as Cubmaster, he sees it is very difficult to keep the boys on task.

Melissa – that is why Tony, Jim and Steve added the "Adult-Mentored" part in troop philosophy.

Mechelle – have framework they can utilize. Boys do what they want to do, but have guidelines.

Melissa – kids must know what they're responsible for at each meeting. This is #2.

We have already discussed #3. B came from Erik Autor. C – teaching methods may be the topic we should take up next. Not only **what** SM does but **how** it's done. This is important for ALL adults working with the boys, not just the uniformed leaders.

Mechelle – methods from BSA, such as EDGE. We expect the boys to use these as well.

(Jock Whittlesey notetaker:)

Melissa – on Saturday, we had a conversation on how to enable kids.

Erik – My boss was observing employees messing up. He just gave them guidance. He didn't just jump in with specifics.

Chris R – Odyssey of the Mind shows kids how to manage challenges. It doesn't just tell them what to do. It shows a different way to approach something, versus telling the kids "do it this way." For example, it would say "Let me show you something a little different."

Melissa – Giving guidance is difficult for parents. We want to write up guidelines.

Chris C – The teaching document is for the handbook.
Where should we put it in the handbook?

Melissa – Put it in section 3.1.1 – under PLC troop philosophy.

Melissa – Vote now?

Jock – We need time to evaluate the document.

Melissa – I want Tony, Steve to comment. Let's save comments for the next meeting, and look at it again. I'll ask Monique to do small piece on teaching methods.

Mechelle – Let's highlight BSA teaching methods.

Melissa – Our goal is to pin down specifics so we know what we want SM to do.
I want to break the role into pieces – PLC, teaching methods, etc.
Let's outline the job description.

Mechelle – It should allow the leader to understand what they are expected to do.

Melissa – Michael Keays would say “Tell me what to do and what not to do.”
We need to find the balance between the individual's approach and the parameters set by the Troop Committee.

Mechelle – We want to provide them with a framework.

Chris C – Handbook does have specifics for parents, but not for uniformed leaders.
Does BSA have specific guidance? We don't have enough of it.

Wally – BSA has guidelines for ASMs. Let me see what I can find.

Melissa – We need to concentrate on our (T349) requirements.
We won't change BSA requirements, but will add on.
We should be specific about what we want.

Chris C – Wally, was there any troop-specific training when you started?

Wally – no.

Chris R – We want the handbook to fit our troop culture. Troop cultures vary.

Melissa – Here's the plan:

- 1) Everyone review my notes
- 2) I'll ask Monique to write a blurb on teaching methods
- 3) Chris R and his wife will do a piece on Odyssey of the Mind

Chris C – What level are we seeking?

Melissa – Ask Jim. It should be what to teach and how to teach.

Colleen – Do we need a separate training manual?

Melissa – ask Chris C to suggest where it should go.

Mechelle – Should we do a supplement or appendix?

Colleen – We want to make the handbook more condensed, but it keeps expanding.

Chris C – Who is our main audience?

Melissa – The handbook is for uniformed leaders and for non-uniformed parents who also work with boys. It is for anyone who is teaching boys.

Chris R – We want unified approach (among parents).

Chris C – Are we having a meeting where parents get a presentation?

Melissa – At PLC, they decided to have a parent and leader training day on the first Tuesday in May. I wondered if we should combine it with a party. Jim said he could use an extra meeting. We plan to do the training at the April 28 party.

Chris – Let's get our ducks in a row, including asking Steve to do his slide show.

Melissa – Monique is willing to talk. The boys will talk. It is interesting what boys say about how they want to learn.

How should we coordinate before April 28? By e-mail.

Chris C. – Should we present the new handbook at the parent training on April 28?

Mechelle – We should get Monique's thoughts on training, and thoughts on SM's role. Interested to know which parts of the Handbook are relevant, even if just in draft.

Melissa – Jim and Steve should both be involved.

Chris C – The handbook was disorganized. I have moved things around.

Melissa – give the updated Handbook to Jim.

Chris R – The handbook was heavy on "what." We are now adding the "how."

Mechelle – I hope Jim and Steve are not too sensitive about changes. They put a lot of work into the original.

Melissa – It has language for specific issues.

Chris C – It is tough for a handbook to meet different needs.

Chris R – Every part seems important.

Melissa – Colleen and Chris R will contribute language on Socratic teaching. The other part is what Tony wrote.

Chris R – Should we give it some variety? Not every method works for everyone. There are different ways of going about it.

Melissa – On April 28, we'll present BSA-established policy and Troop 349 policies.

Monique – Has everyone seen Steve's presentation?

Melissa – On April 28 we'll have:

- 1) Steve's presentation – why to be an Eagle; why to join Troop 349.
- 2) Jim can speak on crew resource management.
- 3) Boys speak.

Kathleen – Are the boys doing a video?

Melissa – Yes. There was a meeting Friday.
Volunteers: Noah, Preston, Michael-Andrew, Philip, James E, Sam, Braeden.
It may not be ready by April 28.

Mechelle – They are good at making a pitch. Use language like “troop philosophy.” We need to point new parents in the right direction.
It's okay to say the handbook is constantly being revised.
We can post it online with caveats about being a draft.
We have a generation of parents who didn't know where to find certain info.
When someone is upset, we can point them in right direction.

(Kathleen continues as notetaker:)

Monique – break Handbook down on website so people can just access those themes and topics they need.

V. Handbook Revisions – Chris C.

Chris C – parents' positions – what are our key needs as new parents come in?

Melissa – just talked about this the other day – need a “Parent Coordinator.” Maybe we can get one of the new parents to volunteer for this.

Jock – maybe not best for people who by definition don't know how things work.

Monique – publish list again – who’s who. If positions are vacant, advertise them, and give short description of each vacancy. Distribute at 4/28 meeting both lists of SM and ASMs; Parent Committee positions – vacant and filled.

Melissa – Kathleen please do this. Please list Board of Review Coordinator as vacant, as I can’t do this now.

Kathleen – Chris, Colleen and I will give rough draft of Handbook to Melissa, Jim, Steve and Tony.

Melissa – lots I’m realizing folks don’t know.

Monique – We need a systematic, deliberate process of recruiting parent volunteers for both ASMs and Committee Members. All current ASMs and Committee Members are BSA-trained. They should apply their training to mentoring the Scouts.

Chris C – but that’s BSA. We’re talking about Troop 349 training.

VI. Roster – Kathleen N

Kathleen – I am working on updating this now with new boys. Need to work with Dave Corn. Then post on website. But many parents have asked for a hard copy. Can the PC decide how we want to do this?

Monique – Distribute a hard copy at April 28 meeting, then once a year when new Scouts cross over.

Chris C – are boys sensitive to having rank shown?

Monique – don’t need to put rank or DOB, just contact information for parents and Scouts. Do Adult Leaders separately. List of Committee members. Boy leadership and patrols as another list. All for 4/28 meeting.

VI. Adult Mentors – Monique

Monique - Need for boys to understand duties and responsibilities of their positions. E.g. Troop Historian could do a slide show at every Court of Honor.

Boys need to be accountable. Committee Members can help mentor. To help boys show what they have done for the troop.

Mechelle – line item in weekly announcements. “Seeking parent to fill this position.”

Melissa – everything on agenda that we have not covered, she will try to address by e-mail to wrap them up.