

## **CAPS – Cheverly Advocates for Public Schools**

**June 25, 2008**

### **A G E N D A / M I N U T E S**

Welcome and Introductions

Madeleine Golde: history of community efforts regarding Spellman

Madeleine was part of the Cheverly Public Education Committee, a town organization created in the late 1980s to improve the new (at the time) Spellman school. This organization of parents and community members put together a proposal for a model comprehensive school which they took to the PG School Board and eventually received \$261K in funding for. The program eventually faltered due to an ineffective principal, but the effort—including a random sample survey, a detailed proposal, media outreach and school board outreach—was extensive.

Spellman Update

Welcoming the New Principal- Ms. Holiday  
Looking ahead to the Fall and Volunteer Efforts

A new principal has been hired! Aimee Olivo reported that Claudia Payne was on the selection committee and is very pleased with the selection. We will work with Claudia to organize a welcome reception for the new principal and to arrange a volunteer program.

Cheverly Schools Open House, July 2, Community Center

RJ Eldridge reported that this is an open house sponsored by the Town for Spellman, Hoyer, St. Ambrose and Cheverly Weekday Nursery. In addition Mrs. Bridgewaters and School Board Rep. Amber Waller have been invited. Each of the principals will have the opportunity to speak to “introduce” themselves and their school to the public.

Aimee asked if CAPS could have a table to hand out information and sign-up members. RJ agreed that would be a good idea.

Caroline Bridgers suggested that we propose some questions to Ms. Holiday in advance. Suggested questions include: What is the America’s Choice program (as referred to in the town newsletter)? How will you address the needs of kids at various grade-levels within one classroom (for example, kids who are above grade level, at grade level and below grade level)? How will discipline be handled? How can we volunteer/get involved?

Ann Barsi suggested that Hoyer and Spellman have a monthly column (approx. one paragraph) in the town newsletter so that all residents have an idea of what is happening at our local schools. Also it was suggested that calendar items such as back to school nights be put into the new town events calendar. Perhaps CAPS can help coordinate this effort?

#### Growing CAPS – ideas, brainstorming

We need to make an effort to increase diversity within CAPS. Not only racial diversity, but parents of school-aged kids, and community members who may not even have kids in the school system. One idea to growing CAPS is looking for ways to get other groups and individuals involved in the schools through various programs. RJ reported that he recently met with Dave Knipe (of the Garden Club) and toured a community garden in Riverdale which is run by a Middle School. This could be a good opportunity for Spellman and a great way to get retirees and Garden Club members involved with the school.

#### Treasurer

Aimee reported that Nancy Clay has agreed to be our treasurer and has begun the paperwork to establish an organization account. Within the next meeting or two we will need to pass by-laws for dealing with money.

#### Other Business/Announcements

Another suggested idea was for CAPS to help Spellman host an Open House for the community at the school. Many people have only been physically inside the building to vote.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 29.

We may not have an August meeting; rather the welcome for the new Spellman principal or volunteer day at Spellman may serve as the August meeting.

**Check out our website: <http://www.caps.fightingmonkey.com>**