



Pollock Pines-Camino Rotary Club

P.O. Box 88

Pollock Pines, CA 95726

www.pollockpines-caminorotary.org

19 March, 2015

Minutes

Meeting conducted at Sportsman's Hall

Members present: Margaret Birge, Heather Campbell, Martin Fine, Ken Harper, Jack Mallinson, Jim Maroun, Dave Rogers, Dennis Staller

Guests: Elizabeth Mallinson, Jo Ann Rogers

Speaker: Grant Coffin, Superintendent, Indian Diggings School District

The meeting was called to order by President Dave at 6 pm.

President Dave asked for a moment of silence in support of Assistant Governor Chuck LaPere, Cameron Park Rotary, who has been diagnosed with 4th stage melanoma.

Two bits, four bits...dollar: Dave donated \$5 to celebrate his 72nd birthday this past Tuesday. He announced that he and Jo Ann will be going to central Europe to celebrate their anniversary. At that mention, speaker Grant Coffin announced that today is his anniversary. Jim donated 2 bits to apologize for being late to Strikes for Scholarships. Ken donated \$3 to celebrate the successful removal of a large cyst on a family dog's nose, and biopsy results that show that the growth is benign. Heather donated \$2 to celebrate the Pollock Pines-Camino Fire Safe Council getting an award of a \$191,000 grant for fuels reduction in our area. She noted that California had \$9 million available in California, and that there had been submissions from a number of communities totaling \$57 million.

Speaker: Grant Coffin is the Superintendent, and teaching Principal of the district. Jo Ann Rogers noted that one of her relatives had taught at his school in years past.

The district has one school, with 15 students. Grant is the district's only full time employee. Others are part time, and some have multiple jobs. The district has operated since 1856.

The community, and the school district were named when prospectors saw local Indians digging for gold during the gold rush. The town is now gone. The community survived on a marble quarry for a while. When that marble ran dry in 1940, the quarry closed. The school moved from one location to another in 1942. I burned down in 1959, and was rebuilt as a two-room school, when the school had 40-50 students. A nearby sawmill was the biggest employer. That two-room school is still in use, and was remodeled in 2001.

Students get the CCSS curriculum. Daily school meetings include students, parents, faculty, and staff. Grant has two aides who help with teaching. In addition to a library, the school has significant online resources, notably with foreign language instruction. Students have laptops and iPads, and a fiber optic connection is coming soon. One student developed a board game based on the Diary of Anne Frank using the computers. Students are writing 50% of their time. Explicit grammar and handwriting are taught. Students are taught cursive writing during the 2nd grade, and typing in the 5th grade. Math instruction is from GoMath from the Mifflin publishing company. Students prepare Powerpoint presentations for some of their assignments.

Grant himself likes living history, and encourages reenactments and period dress. For science assignments, students must produce an experiment that other kids will participate in. Field trips include local hikes, some for long distance, as well as bus trips, and the school also maintains cross-country skis. For music, singer Daryll Cooper of the rock band, The Seeds, uses keyboard, and has participated in the school music program for 25 years.

Community participation is critical. There are only 69 voters in the district. Other residents don't even know there is a school.

Strikes for Scholarships: Lyon Real Estate's team won overall. The Rainbow Orchards team was 2nd.

Polio+ donations; \$10.30.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Kenneth Harper, Secretary