

ACCESS Academy
PTA Meeting Notes
6:45PM PT – Feb 5, 2008

In Attendance

PTA Board: Kim Grimme, Sara Rice, Kaarin Smith, Mark Sandilands

Sacha Gilbert, Suzanne Freidman, Brigit Koehler, Mona, Shaw, Allison Abell, Angela Roelfs, Pamela Kislak, Mona Shah, Gita Enayati, Mona Vij, Thuy Tran, Cuc Vo, Kimchi Tran, JaneAnne Peterson, Katie Schneider, Judy Berck, Norman Teinowitz, Deborah Clemons, Imtiaz Khan, Humaira Khan

Call to order

-Called to order 7:02PM

Secretary's Report

Meeting notes are posted (posted on PTA board and on Bigtents)

- **Motion: To approve the meetings notes from 11/13**
 - ✓ Motion passed

Principal's Report

- No news on location from next year
- 20 folks from Korea toured our program
 - Met w/Mark and toured the classroom
 - They wanted to know if students paid to attend or if teachers earned more
 - Our teachers said love working with our kids, enjoy the time (competitions, etc...)
 - Will maintain contact w/ them to develop relationship
- Budget report distributed for general PPS
- May have deeper cuts
- If impact is significant, may close schools next year
- Testing is occurring right now:
 - 3rd and 5th: Reading, Math
 - 8th: Science
 - 4th and 7th: Writing
- National Engineering Month
 - Parent engineers coming into the class (potentially 3 volunteers)

Treasurers Report

- \$550 in donations in January
- 50% participation
- \$600 out: for teacher's supplies
- On target – still have \$12,700
- David Gates: \$50 for spelling bee prizes
- There are several organizations who match both money and volunteer hours
- Chinook books: sold 45 to date

Site Council

- Every school has school improvement plan
 - Where there isn't 100% grade/state target – they know which one student requires tutoring
 - Have draft of school improvement plan
 - Instead of talking about "meeting" state levels, why not 'exceeding'
 - Parents looking at 'actual' grade level, versus the chronological grade level
 - Assessments currently made in: math, science, language arts
 - There are assessments are more thorough which fulfill the state requirements
 - Do we want as a whole community do we want a meaningful annual assessment (separate from the state)
 - There is an option out there that will test against OAKS – and also broader testing as well - this would REPLACE the OAKS testing. This is the \$12/child
 - Take test at beginning and end of year – to be able to see growth
 - Is this something we could bring up w/Mark to do something at the end of the year
- **Motion to continue the conversation about additional testing and implementing as soon as possible (by end of year)**
- ✓ Motion passed

Positions Needed

- Historian: interest in knowing where our 8th graders go?
 - Leverage alumni parents for guidance about placement of graduating children
 - How much of our credits transfer and what is not being transferred (and to which schools?)
 - Also include history of the ACCESS Academy
- T-shirt sale
- Homework folders
 - have contacted the printer 3 times and no response
- Clothing donation
 - Need all sizes
 - Need volunteers – day to work 02/23 9-1:30PM at Lincoln (8th graders)
 - Kim to call the Clothes Closet and determine what they need for volunteers

New Business

- Run for the Arts: looking at this spring (\$ raised from last year is currently being used: Imago, etc...)
- Transportation
 - A formal complaint has been filed w/district for lack of transportation for access
 - Some families commuting up to 90 min/day
 - Didn't feel like response regarding 'hitch-a-ride' from district was adequate
 - Feel like there are some children being excluded because they are limited by the large commute
 - Ideally – 4 bus lines from the 4 quadrants where you can drop your child off
 - TAG rep: since TAG already has complaints, they may accept our transportation complaint
 - 30 students coming from Forest Heights
 - ACCESS is now officially "Alternative Education" – was originally not "alternative" and the transportation planned was 'carpool'
 - In order to increase diverse population need to have district respond
 - Bussing money comes from the state. District is reimbursed
 - Next step:
 - Set up subcommittee?
 - Suggestion to wait to receive the district response
 - Resource: Parent Community Committee
 - School Council: Past PTA presidents who have a meeting on 02/18 to attend meeting. Kim will be presenting to that group and touring them around the school. She will ask them about the transportation.

- Playground equipment
 - Concern about lack of equipment
 - Equipment list was create by a parent – PTA could cover some of the costs
 - **Motion to provide funds for playground equipment (up to \$400)**
 - ✓ Motion passed
 - Suggested family donations of existing equipment first – then make up the rest from the PTA funds
 - Polly willing to start the BigTent forum
 - Metal soccer frame is in Ms. Williams’ office – could be cemented in place
 - Need to ask the playground supervision people for suggestions of appropriate outdoor equipment

- Green team
 - Program to encourage ‘green’ living
 - District resources: can do base audit for classrooms/school
 - Kids and teachers participate: sort recycling
 - We can then make up a plan what the kids can focus on (recycling, energy savings)
 - If do those things and keep track can apply for “Green School’ certification
 - Including waste-free lunches
 - Believe the auditors can also teach classes
 - Make sure that the presenter is prepared to present to the level of our kids

- Science Bowl
 - Our school has 2 team and needs to increase participation
 - If you want to know more talk to Mr. Garcia
 - Team practices 2-3 times/week at recess
 - The winners this year will go to D.C. – all expenses paid
 - No age limit
 - Add to BigTent
 - Mr. Garcia needs to give heads up to teachers to publicize SB

- OMSI Robotics Competition
 - This Saturday

- Social
 - Friday ice skating session
 - \$6 for groups over 15

Next meeting date(s) and time(s)

- TBD

Meeting adjourned: 8:45PM