

GESPTA Meeting Minutes
2008-01-08

1. President's Report:

a. updates

ice skating

-4 teachers attended – thanks

-would like to have another (lets not do advanced sales next time)

directory, - in the proof reading phase.

-If you form has been lost, welcome to add information to the sheet being circulated

RIF - we decided to do our own version of RIF. Books were bought from the scholastic book warehouse

“Middle Years” committee -

Does not look like our school will be a k-8 school We are forming a new committee to investigate how to communicate with the middle school, whether there remains a possibility of becoming k-8

Brief meeting tonight after PTA Meeting to kick off

We need to be talking to our school board representative

Even though many of us do not have children in middle school now

- now is the time to be making noise to get issues resolved.

b. upcoming events:

Senator Pinsky,

-need help with publicity for this event. Council member turner may also attend.

what would we like him to talk about? - funding specifics. what else?
middle school.

general overcrowding.

communication with the city as it develops

Move It night - Feb 25th

Spring Fair – April 5

Multicultural Dinner - May 14

Please think about joining a committee

Teachers lounge - painting party this friday 7pm - 9pm

Awards -

Outstanding teacher awards - Feb 8th deadline (Washington Post)

Teacher of the year feb 29th deadline (MD State)

Comcast parent involvement award - Jan 23rd deadline

Mr. Weeks has requested 35 licenses for first in math - \$6 each

(\$215 total)

brief explanation of first in math

Where do the kindergartners fit into programs like first in math, other PTA initiatives? A parent has concern that there does not to be any emphasis put on the younger kids with regard to programs and recognition.

Art programs, Yojo, other programs may not be as obvious. Spring fair, multicultural dinner.

With regard to honor roll - the younger kids report cards could not as easily be graded for honor roll status. (Principal Seidel) Schools can tailor honor roll

2. Treasurer's Report

Income from skate night (net ~82.00) \$330

Paid scholastic -\$4885

Income: net \$800 cash / (\$900.00 in vouchers / \$2000.00 for books for classrooms)

Art programming for kindergartners - reading program (to replace RIF)

Closed out an account at another bank and moved everything to the Credit Union

Current balance - \$8404

How much money has come from CFC? Unknown. We need to re-apply by the end of March.

Training sessions are available in January. Jeff is interested in attending. He is helping Susan reapply.

Motion to approve up to \$215 to buy first in math licenses. none opposed. Motion passed.

3. Principal's Report

So nice to be part of a group like this PTA so supportive.

Vision & hearing screenings are coming up for new students (newsletter)
Spoke with Greenbelt middle re basketball game - principal was excited.

Great way to do fundraiser and mix, see positive things going on

Report cards are coming home tomorrow - please sign and return or request a meeting if you have any questions

A lot of children are out - please send in a note for excused absence. The school gets a report card too, and attendance counts.

Volunteers - always looking for more volunteers. We still have money from the county available for the 40hr commitment

Honor roll assemblies are Friday. Putting kids in chairs. Trying to make it more inviting for all

Document cameras have arrived and are in classrooms. - Great new tech tool for teachers. Trying to get for everyone by end of the year.

Thanks to the teachers lounge committee

Congrats to teachers.

Questions: None

4. Presentation by Ms Behe (School counselor)

What is my role here and what do I do?

Program is based on proaction - social skills, debugging, deal with bullies, handling anger, etc

Group counseling (anger group, changing lives group, etc), individual counseling,

Help teachers who have students with behavior issues. 20 students who have daily contracts, behavior chart. It really helps to make a big improvement.

Helps Ms. Payne with setting up meetings

Peer mediation program - it has more impact having their peers work with them. Sometimes it means more.

County used to have a peer mediation program - does not seem to have carried on into middle and high school anymore.

Plans career day

ILP - Individual Learning Plans

Brought in by Dr. Daisy.

Annual goal setting document - put down your child's personal, career, academic goals, etc.

45 minute meeting with each students parent - that would be 4-5 meetings every day all year.

Looking at changing format for pre-k through 3rd grade.

Creative approach - 6th and 5th grade coffee - complete ILP's as a group.

Went back to the classrooms. 6th graders completed ILP in classes. will move on to 5th, then 4th.

How will the plans be used after submission?

The purpose as explained is important for parents and students to think about and plan for the future with someone from the county.

Concerned that ILP may be used to tailor an education to responses given as a child and may limit experiences.

How do you lead students through the ILP?

(Demonstrates with visualizer)

Fighting an urge to revolt. Premise of time with student is good, but ILP could be counterproductive.

College applications look for people with a goal of lifelong learning.

2nd grader - no. Not necessarily bad for kids to start thinking about these things early on. Perhaps questions could be broader. Good to take ownership.

Some students (behavioral intervention) have been required to do an ILP - blown away by the lack of responsiveness, and the positive response by the parent where they realize these are the things we should be talking about.

Some kids don't have an enriched home life - can be helpful.

Seems as though this form would have been caught at a higher level - what were they thinking about?

Counselors have been very upset with this in the county.

Parents do have a right to refuse the ILP.

Ms. Behe does go back monthly with parents feedback - they need to hear our feedback.

Why not do it as a group?

Suggest PTA writes a letter - support the goal, concerned about asking a K what college they want to go to, etc., could make this form community specific.

Curious to see what the revision for the younger kids.

(Jeff and Alan to draft a letter.)

Service learning requirement - would take awhile to address - will explain on parent night for 6th graders.

5. General questions/comments

Forgot to mention - tomorrow night: @ ERHS budget hearing Jan 9th

Please sign up for the listserv

Is career day scheduled yet? No

Upcoming events:

Feb. 5 – PTA meeting with Senator Pinsky

Feb. 25 – Move It Night

Feb. 26 - MSA Night

Apr. 5 – Spring Fair

May 14 – Multicultural Dinner