

## GESPTA Meeting minutes 2008-02-05

Principal Seidel:

Welcome Senator Pinsky

Lockdown drill was a success. will inform us of drills in the future.

Thanks to parents for support

Anne Gardner

Welcome:

PTA has done this year

- Welcome back breakfast for teachers
- renovating teachers lounge
- fund raiser - book sale at labor day festival - raised \$5000.00
- took part in the parade
- gave away 1000 books along route
- collaborated with officer parker for walk to school day-
- monitor environmental health of building
- National reflections program
- Sponsored Kindergarten art classes
- Organized after school spanish classes.
- Special ed TAG nights at school
- small scale fundraisers
- honor roll prized
- science fair judges food
- book fair raised 2000 for school
- 900 worth of vouchers for school library
- 800 cash to scholastic to replace RIF program
- Blue sky puppets
- march Yojo will come in
- Aquarium field trip subsidy
- 35 first in math licensees
- school directory
- Discussions around recess, ILP's, k-8 possibility
- created middle years issues outreach to middle school.

Open to discussion topics

will continue to raise funds

joined CFC

follow up TAG meeting Feb 13

Feb 25 get moving night

Spring fair sat April 5th - need committee volunteers

multicultural dinner - need volunteers for that as well

Please join and be involved

One more thing... officer Parker...

Officer Parker:

Present an award to school.

Summer staff teacher training - brings information to the school.

Presents Check for 500.00 to chorus to go to Disney

DARE and GREAT - emphasizes getting involved

Thank you - that pays one child entire trip.

We leave May 22nd (110 days)

Have raised 10,000.00 - Still have \$6,000 gap

Senator Pinsky:

Thanks for inviting me and coming out

Education and state issues

Season of campaigns, etc

Phone survey joke - ignorance vs apathy

You care - you are more than interested parent - leader in community. Plenty of people did not come out. Would not be surprise if people in the community didnt come yo you for guidance in information

Sometime beaurocracy gets in the way - the community makes the school great, staff and leadership (thank you Ms Seidel)

2 months ago - Super Daisey was forced to make cuts. Things will be leaner this year.

County govt and exec makes final decision on budget.

How effective we are in teaching our children ...helps shape what the community is going to be like. Everything flows from that. People look at the school system.

We have ups and down - some schools are working great - some are having problems - greenbelt has remained stable.

Issue: Make shift in schools structure. Shift 6 into middle, etc. Wanted to take larger elem. schools turn into k-8. Some studies show that older kids who stay with their younger peers don't act out as much.

Unfortunately due to budget cuts this plan is on hold.

People are trying to work in the middle schools - nationally this is a problem. This discussion is happening here. School board and other leaders are looking. Academic program more rigorous - and structures them selves. Discussions will continue.

Money - Special session in Nov - called into due to State budget. State has been for years spending more than income. State has been spending reserves for past 4 years. Non one like tax increase ("but for schools!")

Unfortunately large companies escape state income taxes. Raised sales tax, higher income residence.

The night before the budget votn ( GCI has not been funded last 3 years) Negotiated extra 75M dollars for the state - 13M to PG county next two years.

not enough is being budgeted for education - but not all about money.

Education - I have for 20 years in the county. I believe the essence of successful system is having the best teachers to raise the bar.

Have been promoting Nation Board Certification - 1000 teachers in the county. County and state pay tuition. More teachers in your school who are certified is like a badge for your school.

Involved in other issues - environmental. National govt. is not doing anything - so we will try. What would sea level rise do to this state?

One last topic - shouldn't be that people with deep pockets run for office. Public financing bill - accept no private money - state will finance campaign. Should help clean up government. The elected are there temporarily - its the peoples office.

Get involved and go vote. Use the power of the vote - and send messages.

QUESTIONS:

Q: Can you comment on education budget is tie in with slots legislation and your stand on slots

A: Opposed to slots and gambling in MD (applause) - not because I'm morally against gambling. It does not make public policy sense. Should not base your budget based on gambling. A tax on the poor. Most lottery income comes from PG and Balt counties. Will be on November's ballot.

We raised 1.5 Billion (compromise was to put slots on the ballot) What happens if slots doesn't pass in Nov? We would need to raise more taxes - but for education and health we should be able to say let's do it. Don't put your head in the sand. We can either raise money - or balance the budget. The 5 licensed slot companies - will push hard for it - we can live without it.

Q: Which candidate is more in favor of public schools? Do you have any knowledge - Obama or Clinton.

A: You should probably go to their web sites. Short of a lot of issues they are not that different. I would bet both would say NCLB and too much emphasis on testing they would be the similar.

Q: We have not talked much about snack and soda machines in schools and the schools dependency on cash even though they lead to bad behavior. We have talked about physical activity (recess) system is set up in a way where the kids can't get socializing and mind clearing physical activity - is the state doing anything?

A: I have been fighting junk food for 10 years. At Central High (1989) staff was shocked to see soda and candy machines in school. What do we need this for? To raise money? Why don't you just sell drugs? To what length do you go to raise money? Hard enough to teach without the sugar thing.

Some schools make a couple million \$ - 8 years ago put in legislation to ban it. Large vending machine companies oppose. After 5 years put limits. Some concessions have been made.

What is in the best interest to our children? We will pay 5./10 times in our children's health than the \$ made from these machines. Cannot continue to look short term.

Contact local admin and school board to get them out. Slowly have been phasing out.

In terms of recess. 8-10 increase in testing. More time for reading/math - has made arts, music/people have suffered. Recess also. Some legislation - Dept of ED pushes back on more recess. More time is also dependent on the facility - can it support longer recess logistically? We need to look at different education - we are still in old model (when we needed kids to help farm) re look at testing, increase arts, etc. Kids should have culture and think it's important.

Q: With current climate in Annapolis - when we go back to budget talks - will tax tax tax

- or will there be more cutbacks also - taxes hurt.

250 cut in special session - 500 million cuts in Jan 500 positions from state govt. Have to tell you - we have a whole state. Case load for social work is HUGE because they cant hire people for all the work. 70/8-% of budget 25 health 21 k-8 6% on public safety - we need more of that.

Most middle income people get crushed . Used to be a flat tax - wealthier should pay more than middle class now. When the corps doge tax - the balance falls on us. Governor did a air job making cuts, he's been a year - this problem has been around for 8 years. He at least (to his credit) didn't put his head in the sand.

Q: Having longer days or year - are you in favor of that?

A: We should look more seriously. We should be realistic and more creative. Staff should be renumerated - I taught for 20 years. Not here to pander to teachers. 50%-60% teachers are out after 5 years. Teachers cant be off - woefully underpaid. Need more planning time - and professional interaction. New ideas need to be accompanied by those things that allows for more recruitment

Q: What provision for special education?

A: Some is set by Fed - state has some funding - but the program itself is based in the county. Children should be receiving hours and challenges like any student. There is a n appeals process for this if its not happening. The school system pays for it - 50 years ago it was a hospital cost. Not education. The state has to comply with edral law and contribute money - but it can get very expensive. State has told locals we will give you last money - you will need to bring your child back home. Reduce number of kids taught in isolation.

Q: If a schools community wanted to do something innovative is there state law that prevent s them from following through?

A: I do'nt think so - but I don't know. I would hope Dr D would give it a try. Has to be within the law

Q: Development in education. Going from requiting with the inconsistencies between counties - can anything be done on the state level to prevent development if there not schools to support them.

A: I think the policy ned to be changed. A lot of communities have control over zoning. A solution could be to not make zoning changes. Look at spring hill lake project. Keep pressure on county govt to not approve the project. Worth another look to change the policy. Still done for police and fire - but not schools.

Is it county decision or state matter?

It may need approval from the state? Call my office for definite answer.

Q: Any provisions to increase after care programs more affordable?

A: County school system sets actual allocation of money. I don't have an answer.

E letter - call 301-858-3155, or email [paul.pinsky@senate.state.md.us](mailto:paul.pinsky@senate.state.md.us) - to get on e newsletter.

You make this work - than you Kim and PTA president.

Thank you from Anne. Babysitting will end in 5.  
Please sign in.

7pm Kindergarten performance  
7:10 Welcome and report from PTA president  
7:15 Principal's report  
7:20 Ingrid Turner: presentation of grants  
7:25 Senator Pinsky  
8:25 Closing remarks  
8:30 Meeting ends