

GES PTA Meeting – 09-04-2007

1. Presidents Report:

- Welcome. Childcare avail.
- Anne Gardner – PTA President introduction of the board., Kirsten Dabelko - VP, Alan Turnbull VP for Legislation, Susan Breon - Treasurer, Chris Kaplan Recorder, Carol Brewster-Geisz – County PTA liaison, Principal Seidel
- Parent (self) introductions

2. Principals Report:

- Thanks for coming
- Open door policy – appreciate hearing concerns from parents
- In week 3. Things are going well.
- Great turn out for Back to school. Please contact teachers for questions/clarification.
- We need substitute teachers.
- Tanks to PTA for support!
- Will talk about lunch and recess to the end
- Drop off – Safety is priority for lunch/recess and drop off. Please be patient. Some parking available.
- Breakfast is at 855
- Sign out for pick up kids / walkers– new for this year.
- Bus riders picked up by parent will need to be signed out.
 - This was not communicated to parents
 - Will put in Fridays newsletter

3. Treasurers Report

- July and Aug report – books were closed for June
- There are some errors in the anticipated income
- Income from book sale – not final. As of (last night) \$6979.00
- We do have to pay expenses (sales tax, festival fee, etc) Estimate NET ~\$5000.00
 - Posted on web? No
 - Yes – once corrected will be posted on web site.
- Applause for chair Melissa Sikes.

4. Committee Reports

a. Labor Day Festival Report

- Having prime location and tent made huge difference
- Thanks to all for sorting and selling – we rely on volunteers.
- For the first year the PTA walked in the parade – Tanks to Elizabeth Morrisette. We won 2nd place for best float.
- Recycling truck came directly to book sale booth – might earn for lbs of paper for recycling.
- Mr. Lang posted photos in media room
- Kids had a GREAT time in the parade.
- Clever to get book and even more that you could trade it in at the booth.
- Ton of tax free donations

b. Environmental Health Committee (Jim)

- Anne introduces with history of EHC (formerly Mold Committee)
- Jim: Of the 22 items PTA took from last years report, the county has done a good job on 19. County continues to work.
- We have 16 copies of most recent Air Quality report avail.
- Refer to 2 emails attached to the report
- Is sure last round of missing tests is a case of miscommunication
- Things are going well – there is still much to be done.
- Applause for Jim - for copies meet after the meeting

5. New Business

a. Fingerprinting - Marsha Boyd

- Marsha has been math tutor – will be working with us on security
- County has passed new guidelines for volunteers - 3 categories
 - **Level 1** – no clearance required
 - **Level 2** – level requires commercial background check – requires some paper work costs 8.00 – good for one year. For the parent who works on a regular basis with a teacher in the room. Chaperones, etc
 - **Level 3** – Criminal background check required – For the volunteer who will be alone with children. Cost is \$66.00 including fingerprinting and paperwork. Clearance is good indefinitely. (If you have been fingerprinted numerous times – each organization needs it own record – you will still need fingerprinting)

Fingerprinting at GES will be Oct 2 – 6 – 9pm, Glendale Sept 12, Oct 10

You can also get this done at Board of Education.

Concern over finances – it has been suggested that the PTA might help. 15/50 volunteer/PTA contribution

(Anne Gardner)

October 2 is next PTA meeting

PTA did commit to coming up with money to help pay.

2nd grade will be going on field trip on Oct 5. If you plan to chaperone, please indicate your intention to attend Oct 2nd commercial BG check.

What is meant by commercial BG check?

Court records are checked – not criminal records. Not in depth.

Was there to be a motion to commit funds for volunteer processing?

Grant application did not come through as we hoped but we do have some cushion that we could use.

(D. Lange)

Last years volunteers are good to go

5th grade teachers have 4 math students

6th grade teachers have needs already

It is difficult to ask volunteers to give time as well as \$66

He (D. Lange) is reluctant to recruit if they need to pay 100%.

He (D. Lange) has held off recruiting for 1 month – on Oct 2nd we need to process volunteers so he (D. Lange) needs commitment soon.

Would 20 volunteers cover needs?

20 to 30. He (D. Lange) estimates \$1830 - \$2000 contribution would cover it.

What is tutor/volunteer turnover from last year?

Can't answer – as not been dealing formally with volunteers.

Only one has dropped out.

A Motion is made:

That the PTA authorize the board to spend up to \$2000.00 on processing volunteers.

The motion is seconded, passed (unopposed) and carried.

- b. Walk to School day is Oct 3. Kids could log miles walked , photo op,
- Officer Parker – has been done for years at Spring Hill Lake – great results.
 - Need a volunteer from the PTA to coordinate and organize.
 - Best location seems to be the community center.
 - Will help with pick up/drop off
 - Intro Julie and Greg – (Greenbelt Recreation Center) Began “Greenbelt Get Active”
 - Could incorporate program into Phys Ed program, has grant money and reward program for participation.
 - She has the program – needs volunteer in assisting GES
 - Greg – after school programs.
 - Brief history of looking into after school programs from Carol Brown
 - Would target K – 3
 - Good time to start would be after October.
 - Has found a Spanish teacher.
 - Learn language through games and activities.
 - Run up to two weeks before Thanksgiving.
 - Tues and Thursdays.
 - Willing to teach grades 4-6 but thinks it should be split into 2 classes (by age)
 - Would like to start slow with one class and expand after assessment
 - Estimated cost per student?
 - \$25/ student. 6 weeks 12 classes.
 - Might be able to accommodate K as well – perhaps a shorter class.
 - Open to all kids?
 - If done under recreation dept the school would not be liable and would be OK with security check and could be open to any child. (This turns out not to be the case)
 - Student body is out by 3:30 – class could be 3:30 – 4:15, then run a second class afterwards
 - Consider logistics with regard to walkers/bus riders.
 - There is huge need for before and after care. Looking into getting federally funded programs. (Mr. Novik)
 - Consider one class per week per age group to alleviate logistics issue.
 - Class size will be limited - kids in school would have priority.
 - Spanish teacher is NOT after care. When class is over, teacher leaves.

- Amy Hansen suggests Greg submit a draft PTA /School to respond to with regard to class times.
- Security issue – if it is in the school there needs to be a cleared individual. (Greg) Teacher can go through required BG check on Oct. 2nd.
- School Staff – keep in mind to query other teachers sponsoring clubs fro avoid scheduling conflicts.
- Sign up sheets circulated:
 - Miles (walk bike – how far will our miles take us?)
 - School directory
 - Events committees
 - Volunteer sign up
 - Membership committee
 - Teachers lounge
 - Presentations request form

c. School directory

d. Events committee

Find chairs for 4 main events
 Would like to start smaller events
 Games night
 Parent teacher talent show
 Speakers
 Math and Science Night

e. Teachers Lounge

f. YoJo

Great assembly. K-2 promoting reading , 3-5/6 promoting good habits / skills
 \$1000.00
 Offers referral discount.
 Put it to the membership
 We usually spend money on performers – usually less than 1k.
 In general assemblies are not as frequent as could be
 UMD groups might come as they required to do events.
 Should we use school calendar to define events
 Monthly event?

A Motion is Made:

...to approve the funding of 1000.00 on YoJo
The motion is seconded, passed (unopposed) and carried

g. Reflections Program

National PTA Event: "I can make a difference by..."
Mrs. Elizabeth Morisette will coordinate with Art teacher.
Could put judged art show aligned with book fair.

h. Speakers

See above

i. After School Classes (City of Greenbelt Recreation department classes)

See above

j. Additional Fundraisers

skipped

k. Destination Imagination

skpped

l. Recess

Last year all had 15 min for recess, 25 min for lunch
Cty added mandated hours fro science and social studies?)
Anne gives background of online ducsussion

Alan T – worked up some points [**get E COPY**] see attached

Can we schedule separate meeting to talk about recess?

Yes –

Beth Novick – can someone organize the specific concerns so the staff
can address them?

Staff can help us to understand logistical challenge.

(K. Seidel)

This school has more monitors than most.

Lines have been painted to expedite movement.

Invites parents to come experience first hand.