

GES PTA Meeting – 10-02-2007
Meeting Began 7:15

Anne G – Welcome.

Please use index cards to submit comments/questions

1. President's Report:

- Free homework passes
 - Good only for tonight
- Security Processing/funding (Oct 2)
 - Ongoing in the cafeteria
 - 2 levels of check. \$8 and \$66
 - PTA auth to pay up to \$2000 to pay for checks
- Walk to School Day (Oct 3)
 - 3 groups walking
 - Hoping teachers will log students miles and record class totals
 - Youth center is collaborating with us on this
- After-school classes (Spanish starting Oct 9)
 - \$25/ student 3:30 and 4:30 classes
 - Knitting class fell through. Will be in the community center son
- school directory
- upcoming speakers
 - Nov. – community center
 - Dec. – Ms. Behey
 - Oct. 9th Deasey will give state of the School System Address
 - Oct. 11th will be science fair parents night
 - (see upcoming events – end)
- School Emergency Plan
 - If the school must be evacuated – all students will take walking paths to community center.

2. Principal's Report

Nice crowd

Great start to beginning of the year. Weekly communications

Arrival in parking lot has been going well. Thank You.

Children should not be dropped off before 8:50.

Dismissal needs a little more work.

Changes:

Cones are out to prevent passing

Oct 8th – Move pick ups to under the awning

Walkers will go out the side door.

Must have signature for every child picked up by an adult

Please be patient while we get this started

Ms Plogman/Behey will be out front [CHECK SPELLING]

Ms Case will walk walkers out

Bus students - no changes

If you change your child's routine we must get it in writing

Before and after care students will be called last

Additional coverage – new parent liaison – Mr. Washington

Info will go home in Friday newsletter

If you park on the street – that is a huge help.

613 Children to dismiss

Some clarifications are given for walkers vs pick ups

How long will they stand in line?

What time will students begin lining up? After 3:20 bell and announcements. Bus arrival order dictates to some degree.

Bus 144 is problem – seems to be always late.

What if kids have new routine every day? Should I send a note every day? Alan will follow up with Principal Seidle.

Do the children know the difference between pick ups and walkers? They Will.
Outside before and after care providers – parents should notify teachers in writing.

The more parents communicate plans with teacher the better.

Honor roll Criteria:

Quarterly

Attendance award – perfect attend – no tardies

Citizenship – A's in

Gold 4.0

Silver 3.6 -39

Bronze 3.0 - 3.5

Grades 3 and up

Honor roll question – what about lower classes? Could be done within the classrooms. (Ms. Seidle)

Teachers are always looking for volunteers

We may need a wheelchair

Looking for grant writers, help with grants

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report will be posted on the web site (hopefully this week)

We have been collecting dues

Just over \$7000 from book sale

Other income from t-shirt sales

Paid MD PTA dues

Paid Labor Day festival expenses

Need to pay sales tax

(goes through report...)

Current - a little over \$11,000 balance

Note: there have been corrections since last board meetin. Last balance forward has been adjusted ~ (1,000.00).

Questions:

None

4. Committee Reports:

a. Environmental Health Committee – Jim Campbell

[Get e-copy]

Met with Mr. Dallas Principal S, Chamber Environmental, Mr Alexander.

Mr. Dallas arranged for further testing. New info should be avail Oct 10.

Mr. Dallas is to provide the indoor STANDARD with the report.

- b. Teachers' Lounge – Pam Bernier
 - \$500 to renovate the teachers lounge
 - Please sign up for committee
 - Appreciate volunteers
 - Will send survey to teachers
 - Ms Seidel has some ideas
 - Will prioritize final approved suggestions
 - Hope to go to local businesses for donations, etc
 - Do we need appliance donations? Perhaps – based on final list.

- c. Scholastic Book Fair – Amy Hansen

- Held last week of Nov (26 – 30th)
 - Mon Tues – classes can make wish list
 - Wed Thurs – classes come back with Money
 - Raised over \$5000 in books, \$1000 in cash
 - Great experience for kids
 - Don't put 'gadgets' out during school day.
 - Will not take special orders.
 - Looking for co-chair
 - Contact Amy to help.

5. New Business:

- a. Honor Roll assemblies/Accelerated Reader awards: motion from board to replace juice/cookies with small prizes e.g. pencil or bookmark, and to amend the budget to include a \$600 "Student Awards" category, replacing the current "Honor Roll" and part of "In-school programs" categories.

- Isn't more money in budget – just more organized
 - Includes third and up.

Motion is Passed – none opposed.

- b. Reflections program – Elizabeth Morissette

- National PTA Art program
 - Allows kids to think about common idea
 - Can be any type of art
 - From coming home
 - We'd like to get as many entries as possible
 - Due Sept 17
 - National winners get \$200.
 - Pre-k to 6
 - Is it independent or in the classroom?

- c. Assemblies: request from Ms Case for Blue Sky Puppets- \$600-650 for 2 back-to-back shows. Can be voted on in November.

- Highly recommended by (Penny)
 - Has the board talked about budget? There is a vague in school programs which usually pays for this type of thing. Anne and Susan are in agreement that there is currently money in the budget for this.

- Motion to vote tonight – spend up to \$700 on Blue Sky Puppets

Motion Passed – none opposed

- d. Additional fundraisers –
 - Box Tops – Deadline is this Friday
 - Ink Cartridges (need volunteers)
 - Smart raise (web)
 - Giant/Safeway
 - greenraising.com
 - Cookbook etc.
 - Sign up for fundraising committee.
- 6. Discussion on recess

[Get e-copy from Alan]

Principal Seidel – Have 8 monitors now (started with 6 – up two from 4 last year)
County understand we have unique logistical position
Moved 2nd grade recess to a different time – they were getting the least amt of recesses
6th grade has recesses – although not required
Children were 'zoned' in the beginning of the year. This was to get children accustomed to the equipment and monitors. No children can move from area to area.

Administrator is the only person with the authority to cancel recess for a group of children.
Recess is good for teachers also to go out with children.
Parents were concerned that good apple and recess behavior get blurred. Perhaps sometimes recess problems come up in class meetings
Pre-k and k have afternoon snack.

Questions:

Is PG County day shorter? Ms. Seidel – not sure. Alan. We are 20 minutes shorter.
Do all Kindergarteners get snack? Discuss with teachers if not happening.
Is snack always the same time. No.
Is it possible to change K lunch schedule? Seems SO early. Ms. Seidel – can look towards in the future. We tried to put pre K and K in the cafeteria together. Lets reinforce afternoon snack EVERY day.
Playground – slide is broken. How can we address this? We have submitted request paperwork – will check on status. Perhaps PTA can help exert pressure.
What games are allowed during recess? Football? Allowed to play activities – just not tackle or other activities where they might get hurt. Perhaps can reinforce football rules in PE class.

7. Possibility of Greenbelt Elementary becoming a PreK-8 school. Community forum to be held at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Monday, November 5, 7-8:30pm.

Nov 5th E Roosevelt HS – 7 – 8:30 Forum.

Upcoming events:

Oct. 3 – Walk to School Day
Oct. 8-12 – National PTA "Start the Art" week
Oct. 9 – After-school Spanish classes begin
Oct. 9 – Science Fair Parents' Night
Oct. 9 - Dr Deasy "State of the School System" address, Henry Wise HS
Oct. 17 – Chuck-E-Cheese night
Oct. 22 – Special Ed. Night
Oct. 22 - PGTAG Annual Meeting, Eleanor Roosevelt HS
Nov. 19 – TAG night
Nov. 26-30 – Scholastic Book Fair
Dec. 13 – Science Fair judging