

November 6, 2007
GESPA Meeting 7:00 PM

Presidents Report

Chuck E Cheese - made ~\$189.00

Scholastic Book fair - Amy Hanson

Parents will get a letter sent home. Child makes wish list with help of volunteers. Comes back with money after discussing with parents. Evening event on Tuesday 7:30 PM. Wants 3 volunteers per shift per day. Sign up sheet circulating.

Shifts: 9:30 - 11:30, 11:30-1:30, 1:30-3:30. Nov 26 - 30 (Week after Thanksgiving) Its a lot of fun!

Reflections art show - will be judged

Same night as Book Fair evening. Elizabeth Morrisette is running it for us and working really hard. (Thanks!)

Teachers lounge - Pam

Carpet is gone. Will try to use existing furniture, paint walls (Nov 30), refinish wood, etc

Counters cannot be removed

would like to replace lamps and kitchenette, tables, perhaps add an area rug (additional \$700.00 would be needed)

Trying to get corps to donate larger ticket items - committee is limited to \$500

Directory

Forms are being typed

There should be copies of form in the front office soon

CFC

Combined Federal Campaign - can donate to the PTA through CFC if you are a Govt. employee

Still looking for someone to take over sending out ink cartridges - or will be taken over by Green Club

Ms. Behe would like to update and expand coupons for children that make the Honor Roll

Senator Lapinski has offered to come speak to us about Education -

We are looking for Science fair judges - how were judges found on the past? Ms. Bower has a list of past judges to start from)

Treasurers Report

October income \$300 most of which came from t-shirts and Chuck- e- cheese
Deposit of \$200 sent to Hojo

Misc expense \$650 (up front funding for t-shirts for chorus - will be reimbursed)
Balance \$10524

New Business

Request from Ms. Stelzer for \$441 to pay for a bus to the Baltimore Aquarium
We paid last year - need to vote on.
Subsidizes cost - not covers

MOTION FROM THE BOARD to approve \$441 to pay for a bus
MOTION IS PUT TO A VOTE: NONE OPPOSED - MOTION PASSES

RIF. The PTA used to pay for part of this. We are no longer eligible to receive funds. DO we find a business to sponsor this, do a specific fundraiser, or discontinue the program.

Books would cost \$3000 instead of \$750 without Federal money.

Will poll teachers if they think it is worthwhile

Ms Carmichael will get voucher from fair proceeds. Could put voucher towards RIF if Ms. Carmichael is not opposed.

Why are we no longer eligible? The number of reduced lunches required was raised

Any sense in asking for donation from parents?

Will wait for teachers to get back to us

Scholastic voucher has bought many of the books in the Media Center - another option could be local business to sponsor.

Principals Report

This thursday is college night - college savings plan information. 7PM Rogers heights elem.

Science backboard are for sale - \$5

Next week is American education week. Wed visitation. Table will be out front for direction etc. Would PTA like to have a table? (Visitation day Nov 14)

ILP - System initiative - Ms. Behe is trying to do ILP for each student

Conferences are Nov 12th

Read the newsletter

contact teachers with questions concerns

PreK-8 - Possibility of GES becoming a PreK-8 school. Report from Community forum held at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Mon Nov 5, 7-8:30

We were well represented

Presentation was based on the Power Point
Raised more questions than answerd
Jeff: Will just go through facts

Converting some k-6 schools to k-8 while adding more dedicated schools
3 scenarios - determine which schools will determine
GES is slated in all 3 scenarios will are included as neighborhood preK-8
Add more spatial distribution to dedicated school
reduce transportation cost, keeping children in same school has benefits
Some safety issues we raised.

Whats the timeline? None discussed(Seidel)
Is GES going to be preK-8? Yes - in all 3 scenarios.
How will more students be accommodated? Some boundary changes would handle
population issues. People really need to plug in their address and see
Will updates be forthcoming? The board has to approve. There will be more hearings
and discussions.

Intent was to raise questions to further richer discussions
Was the tenor of the evening that it was good to raise questions? YES. After
presentation, the audience broke into groups to come up with questions/comments
There have been several of these sessions
Power Point is available on the school board web site.

What would you say the downsided might be?

changing boundries, we should push that no student here now is removed after
plan.

Age range.

Smaller classes might make special programs (algebra, language, music, etc)
less viable, (Susie J)

K-8 provides more staff.

Some advantages - continuing relationship between kids and teachers and each-other,
staffing

We should be clear that this school will not be built onto. County is might even be doing
this avoid new construction.

Situation with middle school have been hurting the situation at this school. This is a
good deal and we should help make it happen.

In the presentation, the maps were not included, but we were assured that boundaries
would be discussed before decisions were made. Monday is board meeting and Middle
school will be on agenda.

Middle school is inherently a problematic concept. With the internal changes going on
you add external change on top and seems like preK-8 could help with that. Could help
prop the kids up through a difficult time.

For a number of reasons its easy to get behind the idea - but it was presented as a
notional idea we should pay CLOSE attention to the details of implementation. By what
means and at what cost? Depending on how they accomplish this, how will it impact
GES?

Main concern - this is based on whether the school has a gym or not. Does the facilities

TRULY have the physical infrastructure to support middle school? COmpare to Greenbelt Middle

If we don't become a preK-8 our kids will be going to Greenbelt Middle in the 6th grade. We may have to suffer through overcrowding for awhile

How is the county going to make the decision? This is a concept not approved by the board.

What are the arguments the board will be listening to? To provide more dedicated programs, research shows k-8 schools do better.

Right now they are soliciting community parent involvement now.

Impression that more dialogs will follow.

Scenarios come with boundary changes - we ned to press for them.

GMS will eventually become a nice facility - perhaps we should lobby for ability to make a choice.

The k-8 schools all perform on par, not true of middle. But those schools are magnets schools.

GMS will be a three year school.

Must consider future disruption at GMS - future plan is to put new school in new location.

Make a connection to Roslyn Johnson - School board rep. will tune into what we say
Anne Davidson can help looking at numbers and boundaries - possible resource.

Moving forward we should as a group feel that "if it happens" lets get on the record that...

No one should leave GES due to boundary changes via grandfather clause and siblings...

We support this idea (perhaps), the middle school is going to be there - we will be sending students. VISIT the middle school. DONT take everything on hear-say.

Alan Turnbull will draft a letter to establish relationship, a lot of parents went, we have interest, questions, etc - let them know we are really there.

General Questions / comments

CFC - we need to think about being in CFC for next year. Not self renewing. Govt changed 990 form - needs to be resubmitted.

PTA healthy lifestyles parents guide available up front...

Honor roll assembly - we were talking about removing snacks - what happened? We voted to remove them and replace with prize.

Thought it was nicer when children went on stage and listed their names. We need to keep it special.

Stage not safe right now (full of stuff) - teachers liked pencils, kids liked pencils.
Can we add names back into programs? Gazette will run the names if we send them in.
There was little time for parents to interact with kids after ceremony than before.
How are the spanish classes going? Fine - but we may need to get a new teacher.
Ours is going to Argentina.
Lets plug businesses in the papers that have contributed to motivate other businesses
ACE reading club - Liz Murray will not be continuing the club - the city is committed to hiring a new person - there may be a lapse in the spring awards ceremony.
Events committee will meet briefly immediately following this meeting

Upcoming events

Nov 19 - TAG Night

Nov. 26-30 Scholastic book fair

Nov 27 - Reflections art show/Scholastic book fair evening hours

Dec 13 - Science fair judging