

Minutes for PTA Meeting – Tuesday, February 3

1. President's Report:

- Science Night went well, although not well attended due to the weather. Thanks to Amy Hansen for setting up some science experiments.
- Reflections winning entries were submitted to the state. Do not yet have a list of names.
- Reverb assemblies on Thursday, 9:30am and 10:30am. Parents welcome to attend.
- Arts integration: Mimi Noorani attended a conference, and there are training sessions at the end of February and in the summer; we hope teachers will attend.
- We won a grant from the Washington Post to do a mosaic mural project at school, in 3 panels around the doorway to the lower grades' hallway. The Art Guy will work with students mid-Feb to mid-March to come up with design elements on a nature theme. After Spring Break students will be able to glue the tiles on, and we are hoping to unveil the mural at the Multicultural Dinner on May 13.
- The PTA will be providing lunch for the staff tomorrow, and donations of dishes are requested.

2. Principal's Report

- Tomorrow's Honor Roll assemblies have been postponed due to challenges with the new computer system.
- Kindergarten and Pre-K are going for validation. Items from their wishlist have been coming in to school.

3. Ingrid Harrison presented \$790 grant check on behalf of Ingrid Turner, to be spent on indoor and outdoor recess equipment.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Money came in from Behnkes Fundraiser (\$30), Box Tops (\$150), T-shirt sales and grants. Sales tax was paid for the book sale, silent auction last year, and T-shirt sales.
- a. Ms Case: request for \$500 for African drummer Kalani to spend 30 minutes with each grade. An anonymous donation of \$500 has been made, and a motion was passed to spend this money on bringing Kalani to the school.

5. Nominations committee

- Melissa Sites is the chair of the nominations committee. Amy Hansen also agreed to serve on this committee. There is room for one or two more members if anybody else is interested.
- Term limits are up for president, vice-president and treasurer of the PTA. The current secretary and vice-president for legislation can serve one more year.
- Nominations will be announced at the April 14 meeting, and elections will take place at the May 5 meeting.
- Members were encouraged to step forward or to nominate a friend.

6. Upcoming events:

- a. Ice skating – February 7, 2:30-4:30pm
- b. TAG Information Night – February 10, 6:30pm
- c. Spring Fair – March 28
- d. PTA meeting/ board nominations – April 14
- e. PTA board election and approval of budget – May 5
- f. Teacher Appreciation Week – May 4-8
- g. Multicultural Dinner - May 13

h. Spring Band Concert – June 2, with brief PTA meeting beforehand

7. Brainstorming session: small groups discussed what is going well this year, what could be improved, suggestions/comments, and questions for a possible survey to go home to parents and teachers.

Brainstorming results:

Good things:

Strong parent involvement

Monday folders are good communication

Newsletter

Parent liaison – Mr Novick

Pawsitive Points – students are excited about it

Student directory: more participation from families and more volunteer help

Arts committee grant writing efforts

Supporting school/teachers' requests: classroom library books, Scholastic/TIME for kids, RIF (Books in Kids Hands/Home), cont w/add comm. vol (rdg & math) - ?

Bulletin boards in August

Painting in K – easels, art supplies

Grants

Reflections program

TAG program

Basketball game against Greenbelt Middle School

Suggestions

Getting more volunteers: divide by grade-level (“we need 5 Kindergarten parents, we need 3 1st grade”), inspire wider participation

Indoor recess: something more physical to get energy out, e.g. exercise DVD, run up halls?

More info needed on delay start for new parents: is it a modified schedule, will kids still have lunch/recess/bus schedule etc. Could we put this on the web site?

Update website for school (PTA website is good)- make more useful to families, e.g. homework section where each teachers lists what is assigned

Lunch issues – accounting, signing up for PayPams/balance – directions on how to access info, obtaining a monthly/quarterly accounting of lunch account

Lost and Found items/organization/parent volunteer to organize

Hand-written comments on report cards/progress reports

Teachers communicating via internet (website, blog, emails/listserv)

Winter packet/spring break packet – more clear info re. expectation/requirement/grade

How to increase PTA membership? - more info to families?

Room parents being utilized more!

Increase numbers in before and after care

Textbooks going home? Policy? Grade level expectations?

More feedback about appropriate items for Pawsitive Points program for older kids – 5th/6th

Greater communication from teachers re. curriculum status, i.e. this month we're starting unit _ ch. _

Teachers utilizing school site, educational blogs

More parent social activities

Murals on walls in hallways to add color back to each hallway

Wishlists for teachers (on web site): Bean bag for Ms Stelzer, wooden mailbox (build them), cork boards for K; send form to teachers and put on website

Publicize available programs when schools are out: Greenbelt community centers, communication tree about available program activities, spring break/Christmas break

Honor Roll program for younger grades

Lunch room – zero tolerance for talking, silent lunch, seating confined to classroom. Suggestion: stoplight linked to decibel level

Parent input for class assignments/more transparency

Autonomy of teachers in applying curriculum?

More fundraising

Bigger portions at spaghetti dinner, movie night, more restaurant nights

Publicity committee to write articles for Greenbelt News Review and Gazette

Sign-in and out for PTA babysitting – enforced!

Longer recess, especially pre-K

More outreach to Greenbelt Middle School, discussion of other options for middle school

Survey questions

What more info would you like to encourage PTA membership?

Day/time of meetings?

Are there school academic programs you'd like more info on, e.g. AR, First in Math, STAR reading/math, SRI

Receiving communications from the PTA – too much, too little, not at all

Which form of communication is more helpful: Greenbelt Gazette, PTA flyers, web site(s)