

Greenbelt Elementary School PTA

Meeting Minutes - April 14, 2009

1. President's Report – Anne Gardner

- Spring Fair was very well attended; also, we had new volunteers
- Three Brothers fundraiser raised around \$100
- Arts integration: Applications have been submitted for this program. We have not heard if our teachers have been accepted into this summer training.
- Mural project: A mosaic is planned to surround the doorway, with beautiful scenic picture. Today classes already started placing tiles. Parents: volunteer to supervise this during the school day.

ACE (Advisory Committee on Education) -- Jon Gardner

- Various Middle School challenges for PTA involvement: students only in school 2 yrs.
- ACE is attempting to jump-start this PTA initiative: 6th-grade parents please contact Jon Gardner (Schools that feed into Greenbelt MS: Greenbelt, Magnolia, Berwyn Heights, Hollywood, Paint Branch, Springhill Lake)

2. Principal's Report – Kimberly Seidel

- Basketball Game, April 24th, 5 pm – Greenbelt Middle School vs. Greenbelt Elementary School
This is a great opportunity to bridge the two schools, visit the MS and see our teachers compete!
- Open House: Greenbelt ES will hold this in May, TBA
- Washington Post, April 6th – Article in Metro section commenting on the Greenbelt Mentoring program, partnering with UMD and facilitated by Mr. Novick – 25 students linked with college mentors; students working on special presentations
- Parents can volunteer with our ES students, helping them in many ways, even just listening.
- Friday we end the third quarter!
- Group students: Each student's name is placed on a card (pink & blue) and grouped by teachers by academic level; hypothetical classes are put together; goals are: students working with similar-level peers, TAG placement, gender equity.
- 5th grade MSA science online assessment opening April 21st
- Tennis balls still needed for student chairs. They are fitted under each chair leg to reduce floor wear—and noise!
- Morning drop-off & Tardies: This year we seem to have more vehicles dropping off students. School clocks may be running ahead, so please defer to an earlier drop-off time.

3. Treasurer's Report – Susan Breon

Spring Fair Activity: \$2000 intake; Cost, \$1000; Netted \$1000; \$764 in books distributed to teachers!;

Our Amazon fundraiser is working well, and purchases earn up to 10% for PTA

[For Amazon purchases go to the PTA web page - www.greenbelt.com/gespta and then click on the Amazon icon]

We are ahead in our income and slightly under budget for expenditures.

4. PTA Board Nominations – Amy Hansen

We have candidates for the following positions

Bridget Wilson, treasurer

Melissa Sites, VP

Mimi Noorani, President

Michael Relland – staying on – Secretary

Joan Whelan – staying on – VP Legislation

Representative To Counsel: This is an appointed position available to join the Board.

Awards for teachers nominations: due in April and to be discussed with Principal Seidel
Our Greenbelt Destination Imagination team is going to State!

5. Presentation from Ms. Geagan

First in Math Online Program, part of GES math programming

- Students and teachers have login information to work on this at home or at school.
- Each skill set consists of visual/ spatial games, as well as traditional equation-based work.
- Designed for 3rd grade & up; some 2nd graders have begun this work, but it requires good multiplication table skills!
- This year allows a parent to log in to play!
- Class competitions here at Greenbelt ES, which pass a trophy to the class with the most points.
- Inexpensive product: \$4 per child, estimated cost; cooperative effort between the county and local administrations. License runs through end of July.
- Our school's website has resources available: AAA Math offers Kindergarten activities; FunBrain; First in Math

Accelerated Reader & STAR Reading and Math: One of varied resources that allow teachers to assess student reading competency; program measures comprehension of books within student reading range (six months around tested reading level); Based on National Norms; Level 1.1 (first month of 1st grade, though read by late-year Kindergartners) can begin this program; student receives points for each book completed; Teachers can analyze student growth and progress; Program books are alternated with Leisure books; Greenbelt is possibly the only local school which has purchased this program; Searchable Catalogue of all AR books is available on our PTA website: www.greenbelt.com/gespta

6. Upcoming events:

- New Deal Café fundraiser – April 21 – 5:30-9:00 pm; parent/teacher open mic; PTA receives 15% of food purchases and %50 of alcohol purchases.
- Behnke's fundraiser (flowers/ nursery), April 25th (PTA receives 10-20% of purchases)
- Greenbelt "Artful Afternoon" school band concert – May 3 – Greenbelt School Bands performance (Springhill Lake, Greenbelt MS, Greenbelt ES), 3pm Greenbelt Community Center
- PTA board election and approval of budget – May 5
- Teacher Appreciation Week – May 4-8; Breakfast and lunch service for teachers and staff; Parents can sign up to help with this: food setup & donations, organize the meal, create goodie bags – planning meeting TBD
- Multicultural Dinner -6 p.m., May 13 – Planning meeting , April 22nd (Wed) 7 pm; volunteers work in small shifts and each job can be fairly directed or creative—please consider joining the volunteer team
- Spring Band Concert – June 2, (7 pm tentative) with brief PTA meeting immediately prior