

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, September 2nd, 7-8:30pm in the Media Center.

Minutes...

1. President's Report & Welcome

- introductions of everyone present and their enrolled children, PTA officers, staff
- staff welcome-back (goody bags, lunch for teachers) went well. Thank you to those who volunteered! *Next teacher appreciation week is in May.*
- Back to School Night
- Newly-designed Web Page (thanks to Scott and Dawn Mooney):

www.greenbelt.com/gespta

2. Principal's Report (Ms. Kim Seidel)

- Awesome turnout at Back-to-School night; Partnership between school and community expected to be strong.
- Routine is becoming set with regard to pickup/ dropoff and general operations.
- Parent should address concerns initially with their child's teacher, then counselor (Ms. Reynolds-Lawson, Ms. Behe)
- New Program: PBIS, Positive Behavioral Intervention System (Ms. Behe)
 - 1) 4 basic expectations recited: I am respectful, I am responsible, I am safe, I am prepared. What do these expectations look like: in the cafeteria, in the classroom, in the bathroom, etc.?
 - 2) The majority of kids are doing the right thing and receiving points. Students use their "pawsitive" points to purchase academic supplies at a student-run school "store."
 - 3) Every class—and school bus—has a dog dish on display, to be filled with "bones" representing total points, with extra recess as a reward for the winning group.
 - 4) Restocking our store is a priority for our community. Asst. Principal suggests parents can bring items in to school to be used as award in the store. Check with your employers/ companies with regard to items they can donate.
 - 5) E-mail list is important to join for information, and please respond if you are asked what is your connection to GES (this is spam-deterrent)

3. Treasurer's Report (Susan Breon)

- Reimbursement forms are available on the gespta website; complete and place them in PTA's box; add mailing address to form if you need the check mailed—otherwise, you can pick up the check at the following meeting from Susan.
- our annual budget: income:18,300; expenses: 19,365; \$6,000 in saving

4. Labor Day Festival book sale Report – Melissa Sites

- Income: \$8,700.00, gross (expenses to come in a few weeks, but we should clear \$7,000); this is \$1,700 better than last year's gross.

-thank you to all who helped, and who carried books, put up tents, etc, etc.! Books moved in record time from school to sale site. Kirsten's directory from last year a huge help.

-criticisms: logistics regarding where we set up; flat \$1 price on a Saturday, as well as other pricing ideas for improved selling.

5. Funding requests:

a. Picnic tables for the courtyard – around \$1,000 each, including shipping (long-lasting steel, plastic-coated)

Currently there is nowhere for students to sit outside for activities. We need enough for about a class of 30. We may have the ability to make our own tables @ \$100 each, which will require volunteers. We should make sure it fits code (for liability reasons); Ms. Seidel will follow up. Possibility that Public Works can offer aid for this project? Mimi Noorani will call them. Perhaps we can ask PW about current orders we could piggy-back.

Motion to discover more information on homemade tables and work involved. LaShel Baravechia motions, Sheila Lindsey seconds; Motion passes; issue tabled until next month.

b. Subsidy for 4th grade in-house field trip – Neptune's classroom, science experiment with plants and cells, currently \$8/student with no subsidy; in past, teacher trip request has been funded @ \$200.

Motion for \$200: Sheila Lindsey motions, Lashel Baravechia seconds.

Motion amended for \$200 for 4th grade for the year, to cover those funds not coming in from parent form requesting \$8. Sheila Lindsey motions, Lashel Baravechia seconds. Motion passes.

c. First in Math licenses for 3rd & 6th grades, \$6 each; may need only one class license for this; this is an online computer program license enhancing math skills; also, students compete school-wide, from school or at home, and also between schools statewide.) TAG office receives funds to cover other grades)

Amy Hanses moves we approve up to \$200; Dawn Mooney seconds. Motion passes.

6. Upcoming events/programs:

a. School/ Student Directory (Kirsten Dabelko): forms available for families to be included in this publication—also this information is included on member signup form; Sponsorships are needed for the publication; These booklets are distributed to parents only. Need volunteers to input data, posting mail, visiting merchants. You can work from home! We're hoping to distribute in November.

b. Walk to School Day – Oct. 8

Need volunteers: Plateau Place, Civic Center, Greenbelt East; this event cooperates with police and local govt.; Ann Potter suggests using a group from Gardenway already in existence; Greenbelt and Springhill Elementary will be a focus for encouragement: prizes will be offered for participating families!

c. Events Committee; Chuck-E-Cheese – Oct. 16? Need someone to call facility.

We are hoping for an active events committee this year. (some events are listed below) Sign-up forms available in meeting and via e-mail; past events include movie night,

game night.

d. Arts committee/Reflections program, begun last year; grants to apply for, bring arts to school—this year a theme of “Wow”; sign-up list is passed around.

e. Committee(s) to nominate staff for awards (many different ones available)—Amy Hansen— and to apply for grants; Amy suggests that we note upcoming awards you might and post to listserv or let her committee know, for future consideration for our teachers!

f. Room Parents—various jobs available: from calling parents for updates to bulletin board work, teacher-requested jobs (Anne has a list for each teacher)

g. Assemblies – PTA sponsors 1 or 2 per year; presentations (years past have included Baltimore Opera, YoJo—staff likes this!—and other arts/ academic presentations.) In-school program budget is \$2500, which includes other planned events through the year.

h. Additional fundraisers (on back of your PTA meeting reminder flyer)— Giant/Safeway (Apply for a card, to be used when you shop; Greenbelt’s number is #00553), BoxTops/Marketplace(www.boxtopsforeducation.com), smartraise.com, amazon.com (through greenbelt.com/ gespta); Silver Diner/ Chevy’s are other event locations that offer evening fundraising opportunities.

Other discussion

-If you missed the Security clearance fingerprinting offered this evening for non-county employees, another is offered Oct 2 at Berwyn Heights Elem., 6 p.m., with other dates posted on pgcps website (www.pgcps.org) for other school offerings. Cost: \$7/year, \$61/ lifetime

-Revised Report Cards this year will feature progress for each subject.

-Brochures from National PTA on children safety are available from Anne

-We need volunteers to count T-Shirts (Gym) this week.

-GES PTA was awarded 3rd place for “Best Float” (Dr. Suess Hat) in the labor day parade!

-*Boy Scouts Presentation*: Agenda for the organization falls in line with goals expressed in school. Our priorities are character development and fostering safety through learning opportunities. An immediate goal is to hold a “boy talk” at school, to get kids excited about our work.

Sign-up sheets currently available (Many have already signed up):

Arts committee

Grants Committee

Award Nominations Committee

Directory Committee

Room Committee

Room Parent

Events Committee

Building Picnic Tables

Walk to School Day

Arts Committee

Events:

Sept 15, eve – Middle School plans for new building

Sept 25 – child identification day (“chip ID,” electronic card provided by private company)

Nov 4, (no PTA; election day)

Nov. 5 - Honor Roll

Nov. 5 – PTA meeting + Spaghetti dinner? (Volunteer needed to coordinate)

Dec. 1-5 – Scholastic Book Sale/ possible Art Show– Amy Hansen/Karen Yoho

Dec. 4 – Grandparents Day

Jan. 14 – Math/Science Night – Amy Hansen

Feb. 10 – TAG meeting /Reading Night – Beth Novick(6th grade teacher), contact

March 28 – Spring Fair

May 4-8 Teacher Appreciation Week

May 13 – Multicultural Dinner