

GES PTA
Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2009

Membership stats: 75 + 6 teachers +2 community partners, totaling 83 to date. (We had 110 last year tot—27 of whom were teachers)

Officer Parker

Walk to School in the rain!

McGruff Crime Dog will be there!

Need for volunteers to distribute incentives.

Group from Boxwood, Spellman pass, Plateau place (good for drop-off of children).

Teachers will track students who walk to collect data on participation. The thinking is that children perform better after the walk!

Audit Committee— John Gardner, John Burns, Alan Turnbull

Audit Books form last year. In treasurer's files there is a guide for the committee. Beginning at the starting funds, we randomly sample of transactions, check for appropriate receipts. No significant anomalies, only a few bugs. \$8023 carried over from the previous year, along with a net increase of \$2500 = \$10,400 for coming year.

Each year's book sale continues to show growth over previous year.

Mimi has authored an article summarizing what teachers have accomplished with our Arts Integration program. Our teachers met a particular artist who works with drama and literacy. Both behavior and academic goals are met. A teacher workday this past week spent some time with Leonore Keller from InterActStory Theater.

Principal Seidel

Thank you for funding this InterAct project: Bringing Literature to Life! Ms. Keller spent a half day with teachers, then time with classes (with coverage for other teachers to observe). She also works as coach for teachers who ultimately need to lead this with their classes. Assemblies are upcoming for school-wide presentations.

Photo presentation of the InterAct events:

Acting Tools of Imagination, Body, Concentration... all the things already in action in terms of classroom management, etc.

Finding the Character's Voice and Body.

Students predicted and inferred story events, a normally difficult skill for young students.

Community Play Day this Weekend facilitated by the City of Greenbelt

School Suspension Policy

County has revised code of conduct for all county schools, pre-K and up. Parents are asked to provide suggestions of alternatives to expulsions/ suspensions. Greenbelt Elem School had 67 suspensions 2008/2009 (fighting/ assault). Last year 47 suspensions. Preventing a child from being labeled as a trouble-maker is a sensitive issue. Suspension can be seen as ineffective or may offer different results from that intended. PBIS has contributed to our lower numbers. GES has a zero tolerance for use of these punitive measures to create a safe environment. However, many alternatives to suspension are used already at GES to keep students in class.

- * The positive mentoring program with UMD from last year will continue.
- * Community service is another alternative idea.
- * Donna Behe provides conflict resolution (Second Step, "I" messages, mediation, small groups).
- * Future drama focus on managing behavior.

Meeting on Sat, Nov 7 9-noon . Our executive boards will share our suggestions with other pta in the county at Ark of Safety Christian church, 9402 Marlboro Pike, Upper Marlboro, MD.

Vote on following budget increases:

\$2500 more in this year's arts budget, to make available funds for future supplies, visiting artists. This year's budget has been depleted with our InterAct event.

\$200 for First In Math licences for 3rd grades. County provides 4-5 grade and TAG provides money for Tag students. Our reading scores are higher. Basic computation seems to be a necessary good step, and this program is very accessible for students. John Garnder moves we fund this license. Amy Hansen seconds motion. Vote passes unanimously.

Thank you to Lauren _____ for boxtops

Sue Belisle and Kirsten Dalbeko will work on the Recycling bin at the tennis courts needed

Dale rented a U-Haul truck to move the approx 25,000 books – 5 tons.

Oct 27th Chuck E Cheese Event.

Nov 30th Franklins event: GES receives 30% of proceeds form restaurant and store.

Thursday Art Night, Lucy Dirksen

Pizza form Three Brothers

Scholastic Book Fair -- Karen Yoho

Monday Nov 30th through following Monday

Sign up for volunteers to set up and run the store.

Many of our teachers find themselves in a new rooms with a need for a new set of books.

Visit the website at:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/greenbeltelem>

Theme for this year's fair is international.

Student Directory – Kirsten Dabelko

Hoping to get info out in the Monday folders.

This is a great community-building tool

Perhaps organizing a Teacher membership drive would be helpful in obtaining more than the six memberships we have at this time.

Grants/ Funding

Thanks to Melissa Ehrenright for writing the following grants:

two this month 2K MD state arts council 2K presindtns arets council

Looking at Dance artist program, Dichiban, which we can book now with PTA's \$700 contribution. (This money can be sources from a larger increase in PTA budget,namely the \$2500 Mimi mentions for a vote.)

Latin arts group, Cantare, is also an upcoming event.

All kindergarten classes will receive a residency soon as well.

Greenbelt community arts foundation in process.

Other ideas for funding a "rainy day" fund for future arts events?

Discussion of concern for PTA's collection of money through teachers at the school might require a drop safe or some secure drop box.

Discussion of concern how the arts programming is equitably funded. Do we charge like we do for field trips? \$20 would be a large sum for families to fund on a per-event basis. How can we make available a sustained arts experience for all students. Should our goals for arts instruction create targeted funding events for our PTA? We have experienced successful fundraising. What would "living within our means" look like? Are we flush with money such that we could provide experiences now?

Gardening –

Ms. Zanin has obtained supplies and worked with students to enhance our gardens. She may be unable to make the event so any volunteer who could assist or contact her is needed!

Lauren Rankel has been in contact with store managers. We need someone to pick up the cards from the stores, who is available at times when managers are available—often in the early am or late eve.

Volunteer idea of submitting

Motion to place money in arts fund, currently sitting at zero
\$800 Dichiban

300-400 for InterAct

Matching grant for Kindergarten residency

Anne Gardner motions we move \$2500 into arts fund, which will cover the above arts needs; Kirsten Dabelko seconds motion.

Discussion on tracking of what was previously spent.

Motion passes unanimously.

Committee Needs

Arts committee needs filling. Strategic planning needs to keep our grant flow strong.

Nominating Committee—several Board positions opening this coming year.

Volunteerism ideas.

Boundary meetings this Wednesday and the following Wednesday. Contact Amy Hansen.

Oct 12 Dads make a Difference Day in the morning. All Dads—as well as male children supporters—welcome!