

GES PTA
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2009
Minutes taken by Melissa Sites

22 members present

Principal's Message:

Principal Seidel thanks Ian Rogers for reading on TV, for their faculty meeting, and the recording he made of Where the Wild Things Are.

Lenore with Interact Story Theater conducted trainings in certain first, third and fifth grade classrooms. The kid's comments showed they loved it. Students in participating classrooms also demonstrated strong inferencing skills. Thanks to PTA for supporting this dramatic work in school.

Conference day is Nov. 11.

Math assessments and Directed Reading Assessments. The majority of students are proficient. Parents should try to set some goals with their kids. (Second grade is a little low right now; Fifth and sixth grade students continue to work on math as well.)

Mathalon for sixth grade students on Saturday with Mr. Weeks at Fort Meade, sponsored by Maryland State Dept. of Ed. The math was at a very high level.

Monday folders issue. Some parents not receiving.

Lenore is good at training teachers and teachers would welcome seeing more of her. She gave us a list of books she recommends.

Ms. Seidel in conjunction with art teacher Mr. Cunningham and principal expressed enthusiasm for another mural.

Ms. Haber's Report.

Parent portal. Teachers have to give points for every assignment. Homework assignments, grades, etc. The family needs to get a code to set up a username and password, which will go on into the future. This is a useful benefit from Schoolmax.

Thursday night is a joint program at Greenbelt Middle School-- mental health and stress management on Nov 5. All parents are welcome.

Treasurer's Report.

Time for Kids broke even using Scholastic vouchers and parent contributions. We need to be aware that those vouchers can be used for books or Time for Kids... the faculty should decide. The percentage of total parents was 37% who sent in money to pay for Time for Kids.

Received check from Chevy's night fundraiser (approx. \$180).; We we're awarded a grant from Prince Georges Arts Council for approx. \$2000 to be used for an artist in residence. Received check from Chuck E. Cheese (approx. \$190) for October fundraising night.

PTA bought mailboxes for classroom teachers (Approx. \$500); paid for the playground shed (approx. \$170); supported a music and puppet workshop; and \$200 for the lower grade fieldtrip to Green Meadow Farm.

Thanks to Lauren Rankel for organizing Chuck E. Cheese.
Lauren and Melissa Ehrenreich have been promoting Target field trip grant opportunities to teachers and encouraging them to apply.
Applied for Jim Cassels award, but did not receive.
Picture Day -- thanks to Brigid Willson for her help.
Gardening Day -- thanks to Ms. Zanin and all who helped.
Middle School Petition - thanks to Joan Whelan, Amy Hansen and all who helped gather signatures.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Scholastic Book Fair - Karen Yoho, Amy Hansen
Franklin's in Hyattsville fundraiser on Monday, November 30.
Tuesday, Dec 1. PTA meeting.
Art Night - Dec 3. Melissa Sites, Lucy Dirksen
Grandparents' day Dec. 7
Dishibaum \$4000. (what is this?)

Discussion of the PTA Reflections Art Contest
School did not participate this year. Main issue was over volunteer hours required to coordinate. Dismay about lack of feedback from last year, esp. re Ms. Novick's kids who worked so hard on their rap projects.

Mention of monthly New Deal kid's open mic.

Michael Relland has resigned. Membership information needs to be entered into an Excel spreadsheet, and cards filled out. Nominations needed for secretary.

Discussion of improving ways to communicate with members. Plan to explore making better use of PTA bulletin boards.

Nominations Committee should be formed to elect officers for next year.

GESPTA has managed to drive several important movements over the years. The leadership position is what ultimately drives the transformation process.

PTA members encouraged to join listserv to receive communications.
Candey@acm.org will add you to the listserv.

Perhaps the music events can be supported by PTA events.

Other communication and outreach suggestions:
Send a newsletter home to motivate parents by what we've achieved.
More information should be provided to parents re arts integration. Mary Moyne from New Review wants to write an article.

We need to move forward with communication about the additional help that is needed. Ms. Novick would work on a letter to the community about what we've done, our philosophy, and what we need.