

PTA meeting October 5, 2010

MS. SEIDEL (Principal): This year theme is "growing young minds". Ms. Seidel talks about a garden as a metaphor for the school. [Ms. Bernier has something to do with the garden??]

She emphasizes the importance of parental involvement. It is important that parents feel comfortable to talk to staff and be honest about things that may not be working as desired.

Ms. Seidel and Ms. Bush (Vice principal) went to a PD in the summer and they want to share an activity they did that is called "mini-lab". They lead the activity. Great ideas about how to improve Parent-Teacher conferences, how to better support our teachers, how to get more and better parent involvement and teacher student interaction. They will compile a list of ideas and share or publisize in some way.

LUCY (PTA president): There is no meeting in November.

We need to put together a Volunteer committee to fill Mr. Lange's shoes. We need people to form a committee to coordinate volunteers next year since this is Dave Lange's last year at GES.

MR LANGE: I am putting together a handbook for a volunteer coordinator. Tasks will be broken down for different people to step in and take parts of the job. There are 6 or 7 different kinds of volunteers in the school. This is only for tutoring in reading and math for Kindergarten to 6th grade.

KIRSTEN: although the deadline was Sept 27th we are still collecting form for the directory. We are moving along. We need people to help with advertising.

LUCY: Walk to school Day is tomorrow. I hope you join.

LUCY: Eat well do well. Silver Diner said that only three people have signed as of now. She explains how to register. They try to do local, organic. They give cards for kids who get nominated by the teacher. First Tuesday in November will be Silver Dinner night, instead of PTA meeting, since there is no school that day due to elections. Lucy will check with Silver Diner on a fundraising night for November 7

We would want to do flier the week of October 25 and send home on November 1

Ms. Case can include reminder in Greyhound Gazette and we can add to events calendars on yahoo group and PTA website

KAREN YOHO (PTA Vice president): Scholastics book fair. Is like bringing a store into the school. We need volunteers to help kids to shop. You can play librarian. It is the week before Thanksgiving. The proceeds from the fair allow us to get "Scholastic for kids" and they let us pick books for kids, so every kid in the school get a book for him/her to take home. For some kids this is very important because they have never owned a book.

LUCY: Family Art Night is at the same time of Scholastic. We bring art supplies and kids do art. One year they did poetry with Melissa Sites too. It is just a night of creativity. Kids love it.

Comment [c1]: Didn't we agree on the night of the PTA, since we won't have a PTA meeting? That would be Nov 2, not Nov 7th

We need some coordination on that event. The Scholastic Book fair kind of does its own thing, but someone needs to set up the art component. Then we need to do flier, etc. The flier needs to be done by the November 18 so we can start posting it and publicizing it in all channels.

LUCY: We are trying to do committees so many hands make the work light. Please, sign for a committee and you can help with a small task.

JULIE (treasurer): we have around \$30,000. Some of the money is allotted for particular programs, like [arts in the classroom?] or health and wellness. So far we got \$589 from membership. If somebody is a federal employee and is willing to make pre-tax donations, we are the Greenbelt Elementary PTA, and the school code is XXXXXXX. Karen will post CFC info on Yahoo group and give to Dawn for posting

LUCY: Dishi Bem. Ms. Case is requesting money from the PTA [\$3,000??] to have a residency with DishiBem again this year for the same grades as last year, so it will hit the kids that did not had that opportunity last year. A question was raised about what we will offer to the other grades (last year the other grades had an alternative arts program/residency). The audience asked what DishiBem does with the classes. Nobody could really explain in depth or give a rationale for the benefits of having this residency. All as a group felt need more information in order to make a decision and take a vote. We are not going to vote tonight. We need to go back to Mimi and possibly Ms. Case for a formal request for the Dishibem funds.

Every time there is a request for money from a teacher or Ms. Seidel, we need to get something in writing.

Lucy - What was the form you were reading that Ms. Seidel had? Is that something we have as a PTA? If so, that would be good to share.

Comment [c2]: Question from Karen

MS. SEIDEL: Requests money for Smart board. Smart boards are interactive white boards. They are like computer screens of the size of a white board and you can write on it with special markers, you can go on line and get things from internet, cut and paste pictures, draw on the board, etc. They are a great instructional resource. Now we have mobile smart boards. Teachers have been using them for particular activities, but not all the time. Some teachers got professional development in the summer and feel more confident to use them on a regular basis, so now we are in the place to have the Smart boards to be mounted in some of the classrooms. Also it is a lot more convenient to have the projectors mounted in the ceiling, so they do not get on the way of students trying to copy from the board and they are safer. To mount one Smart Board costs \$300, plus mounting the LCD projector XXXXX. Ms. Seidel is asking for four.

Comment [c3]: I did not get this amount but I guess is \$500 Was it to buy and mount each projector or just to mount it?

Motion: to award the school a maximum of \$3200 for the Smart boards mounts and LCD projectors. Karen Yoho moves the motion, Kirsten Dabelko seconded, and PTA approves

MS. BUSH: Lost and Found. Lost items are accumulating at school. Every PTA meeting we will have a table out in the hallway with the lost and found so parents can see them and claim whatever is their children's. Kirsten offered to spread out the items on the table before the meeting.

KIRSTEN: First in Math. Are we having First in Math this year? One of my kids got the password, but not the other. Ms. Seidel responded that 4th and 5th grades are paid by the county. Usually PTA helps pay for 3rd and 6th grades. Since we have done it for some years now we may have this budgeted. If so, we need to get it ordered for 3rd and 6th grades. Speaking of budget - I don't know if I have seen one! Yikes!

Comment [c4]: Me neither!!

KAREN YOHO will post message on Yahoo group thanking all those who attended the meeting for coming. We had a great crowd! I would like to know how we are communicating with new members? Are they invited to join the Yahoo group? Or do we have another mechanism to say, "thanks for supporting us!"?

Comment [c5]: Also, how do we reach out to parents who do not use e-mail??

There was a request to reserve some time at the end of each PTA meeting for questions from parents. In general, about 2 days before we meet as a board, we can post something (Karen Yoho in charge) on the Yahoo group and solicit any issues that need to be covered for the next meeting. The fact that we ran out of time last night was OK, but we do need to have time to address concerns.