

## PTA Minutes – June 7, 2011

The last official PTA meeting for this school year was called to order by President Lucy Dirksen immediately following GES's instrumental music concert.

Dirksen provided a review of the PTA through the year with the many successes by the PTA for the 2010-2011 year which included the Teacher-Staff Appreciation week, Back to School Night, Spring Fair, Scholastic Books, Multicultural dinner and the very first St. Patrick's day dinner.

Report on the grant submissions which were offset by the PTA for continuing programs such as MATI, Arts in Residence; storyteller which will introduce calligraphy for students in Kindergarten through Second grade.

PTA president also spoke on how, "many hands make work light", through identified job functions, such as a COSTCO Shopper; PTA Closet Keepers; etc. A volunteer sign-up website was created by Lauren Rankel which can be used throughout the school year to help keep track of volunteers and possible designate hours the volunteers provide each school for tracking purposes.

A recap of the PTA finances from the successful events carried through each year:

Book Fair - \$10,635.00, Spring Fair - \$1,292.00, General Fund - \$1,493.00. Financials were not available for the other programs which net income for PTA, which include: Movie Night, Amazon, box tops and the St. Patrick's Day dinner. PTA carry over from this year's finance to next year's - \$18,000.00.

This year's Labor Day book fair will be chaired by Susan Stewart who is looking for a new venue to store books which will begin in the month of August. We also need volunteers to pick up books at the Co-Op beginning in August.

The meeting was turned over to Ms. Seidel for the Principal's report:

She spoke on what a good year the school had and what's to come in 2011-2012 – staffing – projected that the school would be losing 4 positions and would get back 3; there will be 1 pre-k session (AM/PM); 4-kindergarten; 3 -1st grade (down by 1); 4 – 2nd grade; 3-3rd grade; 4-4th grade w/25 students per class (this is coming off from this year's 3rd grade classes increase); 3-5th grade (this year's was a little smaller – currently 67 probably down by 40); 2-6th grades – numbers will be revisited through transition forms. The school board will be looking for new enrollees through the ongoing registration period. There is no magic number with the monitoring of over 200 schools wherein they will be looking throughout the summer and there will be some retirements for the coming school year.

Discussion led to the volunteers for Field trips and how the messages were sent out late for the need of volunteers to cover the upcoming field trips on June 14 and 15th; 6th grade promotion will be at 10am on June 17th; PBIS next year – Ms. Novick and Behe will be attending training the 2nd week in July and will provide a report and training to staff for morning meetings. Greenbelt Middle School – unfortunately Mr. Tweedy (interim Principal) was not able to attend tonight’s PTA meeting to discuss Greenbelt Middle, but Amy Hansen (GMS PTA President) stepped in to provide an update on his behalf. There will be a party for incoming parent’s on June 14 – meet and greet; Mr. Rahmick (English teacher at GMS) – offered advice to parent’s – “don’t stop paying attention”, this is crucial for not only the beginning of the school but throughout the school year; there was a trip to GMS by the 6th grade students on May 26th.

Open forum: went to the discussion of today’s listserv message about an incident that related to the first grade classrooms. Ms. Seidel spoke to the school’s disciplinary process and that such matters are confidential for all parties involved including students, parents, and teachers. Addressed the need for more parent participation/support in the classrooms – if one parent can reach out to at least 3 people that help is needed in each classroom, could alleviate some of the problems and concerns that the children bring home.