

## **Greenbelt Elementary School PTA General Meeting**

**September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 begins 7:05pm.**

**By Gretchen Schock, Secretary**

### **Celebrate Success**

Lucy went through success of last year that was listed on the flier that went home in students' backpacks.

### **Book Sale**

Susan talked about the book sale and thanked volunteers. She showed the trophy we won and announced that we also won \$200 from the Labor Day Festival for best float theme.

Melinda reported that our estimated gross was \$7,940.00. Our estimated expenses were \$2,600.00. A parent in the group asked why we didn't have canopies. Susan explained that they were donated in previous years. Gretchen mentioned that we might think about budgeting them in for the future. Jonathan talked about the tents costing more than it would be worth. Lucy closed the discussion with, "let's visit this again at the end of the year."

### **Parent Liaison**

We need one parent per grade to talk to only grade parents to let parents know of teachers needs. For example if first grade teachers need glue sticks the parent liaison would email the first grade parents and ask parents to purchase glue sticks and send them into school with their child. Bola MaKinde volunteered for first grade, Dawn Pefley volunteered for second grade. A sign up sheet went around the room and many other parents volunteered.

Amy Hansen mentioned that the Greenbelt Elementary School yahoo group listserv needs to be moderated, her husband currently has been doing it for years. Karen Yoho said that she would volunteer to do it for the next three years.

### **Principal, Monica Gaines**

Ms. Gaines introduced Camile Harterman, Assistant Principal. Ms. Bush fell and has a ligament strain, we aren't sure when she is going to return.

### **Student Directory**

Kirsten Dabelko showed the directory form that was sent home in the backpacks, explained the point of the directory is to build community. You can use the directory to schedule play dates, ask other parents questions about homework etc. Kirsten asked for a volunteer to help with directory because she is not going to be able to do it again this year.

### Walk to School Day- October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Volunteers are needed!

Karen Yoho explained that students are encouraged to walk to school instead of taking a bus or parents driving them into school. This is an international event. Parent volunteers are there to corral the kids and keep an eye out in case of emergency. Parents eagerly volunteered:

Bernard Kelley: Boxwood

Julia Shapiro: Boxwood

Jen Brown: Greenbelt East

Gretchen Schock: Plateau Place

Salawa (I apologize for incorrect spelling) volunteered to chair the whole event.

### Rafeal's Race

Kirsten Dabelko talked about Rafael and his beautiful spirit. Kirsten motioned for proceeds from Rafael's Race, this year and years to follow, to be earmarked for field trips for all the students at GES. Karen Yoho seconded. All in favor was unanimous. Amy Hansen wanted to make sure that the PTA would not be taking away the money that the PTA already gives for field trips. Lucy said no. Kirsten thanked Amy for bringing it up.

Kirsten announced that we need race day volunteers; there are lots of little jobs that would require two hours maximum of time. Celeste May asked if we will need fingerprinting to volunteer and the answer was no.

Kirsten motioned for upfront cash from the PTA to cover the insurance from the Road Runners Club of America (\$400) and to pay for the Prince Georges Running Club to time the finish line shoot (\$200) a total for \$600 that will be paid back to the PTA after the race. Sheila and Melinda seconded. Amy Hansen mentioned that we should read the PTA insurance to find out if PTA insurance would already cover the race instead of spending money.

Gretchen explained what the sponsorship and raffle forms are and how each parent could help by asking any business that they know to either sponsor or donate a raffle item to the race.

### Scholastic Book Fair

Karen Yoho talked about the sale and how students can shop and make wish lists. There will be a family night and proceeds go back to the school. Books will be distributed in each classroom. Volunteers are needed during the school day to help students make their wish lists and also to assist with cashier duties. Karen will set up a volunteer spot sign up calendar. Earn a free book for volunteering.

### Arts Committee

Lucy said that the Arts Committee needed a chair and volunteers because the students only receive one art session a quarter. If you are interested in chairing this committee, which would entail organizing the volunteers, please contact Lucy.

### Fingerprinting

David Lange explained the difference between the basic fingerprinting and the full background check. Gretchen said that it saves you money if you have more than one child in the PG County School system to do the full background check because it lasts the entire time that your child is in the school system. The County no longer covers the cost of the full background check for volunteers. Beth Novick explained that we would need 15 parent volunteers for the Camp Schmit field trip; otherwise the trip will not be able to happen.

### First and Sixth Grade Overcrowding

Ms. Gaines explained how the county projects enrollment. Mentioned that people aren't paying for private schools anymore, which means that public schools enrollment are up. At this point they are doing a "warm body count" to find out who is coming to school every day. Ms. Gaines has talked to HR and they are giving us two new teachers. Teachers are moved from schools where there is low enrollment and that qualify for the classrooms that we need filled.

Parents said they did not receive their MSA testing results. The results were supposed to be mailed out this summer. Amy Hansen said that the teachers have access to the information; it is not on School Max. Ms. Gaines said that she would look into it.

### Chess Club

Mr. Stevens would like to start a chess club here at the school that would meet after school during the week. He needs a volunteer to help him. Beth Novick said that she would co-chair in the winter months. Anyone who is interested in helping should contact [georgemstevens@yahoo.com](mailto:georgemstevens@yahoo.com)

### Green Committee

Lucy talked about doing a green committee to recycle more in the school. She asked for volunteers to start the committee and work with the city. Susan said she would help and Amy

Hansen asked if 6<sup>th</sup> graders could get volunteer hours? Yes. If you are interested in chairing this committee please contact a PTA board member, there are many people interested in helping we simply need someone to take the lead.

Meeting adjourned.