

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

**December 6th, 2011 begins 7:02 pm.**

**By Gretchen Schock, Secretary**

Lucy Dirksen, PTA President, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

### **Monica Gaines, Principal**

Ms. Gaines introduced herself and brought it to the parents' attention that the school needs money for technology. There are classrooms in Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade that have computers that are so old they can not connect to the internet. A Title 1 school gets a lot of funding for technology and there are schools near us that have more up to date technology in their classrooms than we do at GES. Monica mentioned that Bladensburg High School is having a "Win a Night Out with Apple" this Saturday. Parents will be able to experience hands on how technology in the classroom and how it can help our children learn.

Students at GES come to the computer lab once a week for 45 minutes.

Lucy mentioned putting a donate button for paypal linked to the school website so that folks can donate directly to the school.

Amy Hansen mentioned that previously the computers were set up in the classroom to only use certain programs, Monica wasn't aware of this fact.

Monica informed the parents that there are three new teachers who don't have laptops to take attendance for their class. Beth Novick said that hers was so old and slow that she prefers to bring in her own laptop computer saying "everything here is old and broken". Lauren Cummings suggested that we have a PTA meeting to only talk about technology and that we need to assess what we have, what works and what doesn't -so that we know what we need before asking for money. Lucy suggested that it be a joint effort that the school and PTA work together to make the technology funds happen for the school. Monica said that Ms Hancock has inventory of what the school has and she can then prioritize our actual needs. We need to have a list of what is necessary and what would be a dream. Beth Novick explained what a smart board does for the parents who haven't experienced seeing one.

### **Responsive Classroom**

Beth Novick presented a video presentation of how the responsive classroom is working in our school; she then answered questions that parents had about Morning Meetings.

## School Boundaries

Amy Hansen reported information about the 6<sup>th</sup> graders moving to Greenbelt Middle School. The middle school is supposed to move into a TAG center. There are documents available online. Now is the time to speak up and voice your opinion about it at one of the meetings. GES is over capacity right now. If 6<sup>th</sup> graders move it would put GES at 50%. Parents discussed the benefits of having 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the middle school: more activities will be available for them, parents are more invested because the children will be there for 3 years, kids have more time to get their bearings, kids are able to get learning that is advanced if they need it. Greenbelt Middle is a uniform school; each grade wears a certain color shirt.

## Treasure's Report- Melinda Brady

Melinda said that on the website there are documents for each month along with the budget.

Gretchen asked about Rafael's Race money, Lucy responded that each grade would get \$500. Amy Hansen reminded everyone that we were supposed to talk about this at this PTA meeting, that was what was decided last month. Anne Gardner asked if some of the money could go towards chaperones. Sheila said that each class should get \$ for chaperone, a parent designated. Lucy asked Sheila to put a letter out to all the teachers about the Rafael's Race money so that they know it's ready to be used.

Melinda talked about passive fundraisers: Safeway and Giant club cards need to be designated each year to GES.

Camille Hardimon, Assistant Principal, told the parents about the Holiday Gift Shop at the school. Students will go in and make their wish lists and then parents can send money in with their child, cash only! Parent volunteers will be needed to volunteer 9-2pm on Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday evening during the chorus concert the store will be open.

Monica mentioned that at her daughter's school they do a fundraiser for parents to go holiday shopping, dinner is served for the children. Maybe next year we could get it organized.

## Scholastic Book Fair

Karen Yoho talked about the sale and that books were delivered to each classroom. Renee Cooper and Melinda Brady have volunteered to take it over for next year.

## Hospitality Committee

Lauren Cummings talked about the goals of the hospitality committee, to show our teachers each month that we appreciate them with a small message or token of motivation. She told the group what Gretchen Schock did for December, notecards were put in each teachers mail box with a motivational quote and message of thanks and to stay healthy during the holidays, along with a packet of EmergenC (vitamin drink). We need a few more leads for the monthly teacher appreciation and are looking to set up 2012-2013 year with 9 volunteers in place before the end of the school year.

We need more volunteers for teacher appreciation week in May. You can contact Lauren Rankel at [lmhr515@yahoo.com](mailto:lmhr515@yahoo.com) to find out how you can help!

Meeting adjourned at 8pm so parents could break into groups for the Open Forum:

Arts Committee

Green Committee

Events Committee