

Greenbelt Elementary School PTA General Meeting

April 12th, 2012 begins 7:09 pm

by Karen Yoho, Vice President

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

Budget was presented by Lucy and Melinda Brady, Treasurer.

Lucy and Melinda encouraged those in attendance to ask questions and get them answered before the vote which occurs at the PTA Membership Meeting on May 1, 2012.

Melinda provided explanation of several items, such as:

- The Board attempts to provide a conservative estimate for income.
- Income and expense are averages from past three years and adjusted slightly based on knowledge of the coming school year.
- Bernard Kelly had questions on the miscellaneous expenses. Melinda explained that those are literally items that do not fit in other line items and for which a new line item should not be created for a one-time expense. For instance, this year the curtains on the stage in the multi-purpose room will be replaced at request of administration.
- The Board is working hard to keep the names of line items consistent from year to year.

Other questions and discussions relating to the budget:

Dues Increase

Lauren Cummings made a motion to increase the dues in 2012-13 to \$10. This is due in light of the increasing amount of the individual dues that get passed on to the National PTA and the Maryland PTA.

Karen Yoho seconded the motion.

Those in attendance suggested members who pay receive some sort of benefit. For instance, a free movie night.

Motion passed.

Arts Programming Expense

Julia Shapiro asked about the apparent decrease in amount budgeted for Arts programming in the 2012-13 budget. Melinda explained that much of the art programming is supported by grants and expenses are reflected elsewhere, since the money passes through the PTA.

Beth Novick asked if we had contracts or other paperwork from the grant indicating what the grant includes. Melinda will provide that documentation to teachers. Beth said this information was necessary to ensure that teachers take full advantage of the program.

Multicultural Dinner

Dr. Weinroth asked about the Multicultural Dinner and the reduction in expense. Melinda explained that this is because the expense has been well below the budgeted amount for the past few years. The reduction does not reflect that the Dinner is in any way less important.

School Directory

A parent is needed for head efforts up for 2012-13 and beyond for the school directory. The cost of the directory could be covered by advertising, but that takes some coordination. Beth Novick asked if there was truly a need for the directory. She suggested we survey parents via the Yahoo Group. The PTA also has access to an online service called "Just Between Friends," that can assist families in linking to one another. Melinda Brady is investigating this further to see if it is a viable communication tool/solution for the school.

Field Trips

Discussion continued on the concern of parents on the costs of field trips for chaperones and how the PTA might support this. Beth Novick and Beth Hancock said that teachers look for ways to cover costs for chaperones whenever possible. Sometimes parent just pay the net cost of the trip, such as an admission fee or purchase of food.

Beth Novick reviewed the numerous field trip procedures for classroom teachers to plan for the trip and account for finances. If there is ever any question on payments received, parents could ask teacher. It should be relatively easy to account for a specific child's payment. Families may also choose to pay with a money order if they require immediate receipt. Many checks and balances are in place to ensure proper fund management and security.

Beth Novick also asked the PTA if parents would appreciate an annual "Activity Fee" paid at the beginning of the year, possibly in installments. Those in the room seemed receptive.

Karen suggested that Melinda post the budget online to the Yahoo Group and the PTA website for further input of families.

Technology

Fourth grade teacher Ms. Hancock is the school technology liaison. They have done a needs assessment and equipment is being replaced, etc. in priority order. She appreciates the fundraiser ideas, and asked how will funds be spent. PTA treasurer said requests would be filled and she will keep that money separate. Ms. Hancock would like to form a Technology Committee of teachers, administrators, and parents. First meeting will be next Wednesday, April 18. The Committee will look at the county plan and ensure that a priority system is working. A sign up sheets was circulated. The next fundraising event is a "Parents' Night Out" on Friday, May 4, from 6 to 9:00 pm. \$1000 was raised in February and the teacher who volunteered their time and efforts enjoyed it. Money has also been raised on donorschoose.org.

Spring Fair

The Spring Fair was successful. All agreed that having all of the activities in the multi-purpose room contributed to the fun and festive climate.

Multicultural Dinner

Scheduled for Thursday, May 24. Classes will work on projects and families will be encouraged to roam the hallways prior to the dinner.

Upcoming Events

“Dinner with Friends” at the Silver Diner	April 19
May PTA Membership Meeting	May 1
Multicultural Dinner	May 24, 6:30 – 8:30 pm (volunteers and set up needed at 6 pm)
Field Day	May 24-25

Nominations committee

Pursuant to the bylaws, Lauren Cummings presented the slate of candidates for elected positions to the 2012-2013 board:

President	Karen Yoho
Vice President	Bernard Kelly
Vice President	Nobert Akas
Treasurer	Melinda Brady
Secretary	Jennifer Brown

8:07 meeting adjourned