

Explorer Elementary Charter School

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

2:00 p.m.

- Attendance: Meghan Bach, Cindy Borkum, Jana Fortune, Gladys Garcia, Gretchen Gillingham, Jill Green, Wendy Hutchison, Therese Hymer, Anna Jimenez, Jean Kluver, Erica Lund-Anastasakis, Nadi Ovanessoff, Tina Remley, Vicky Ross, Reita Sebert, Tracy Wilkinson, Teresa Zucchet, and Margaret Egler

Agenda Item #1: Approval of 10.28.08 Minutes

Wendy Hutchison moved to approve the minutes. Gladys Garcia seconded. Unanimous approval.

Agenda Item #2: Pizza Update

Report by Erica Lund-Anastasakis:

1. Via email, Treena Roman, Pizza Coordinator, reported the survey results:
 - a. 84 for Papa John's
 - b. 43 for Extreme
 - c. 36 no preference
 - d. 32 abstain
2. Treena has discussed the issue of pizza "inconsistency" with Extreme and they are trying to improve.
→ **Decision: We will stay with Extreme for the remainder of the school year, but will explore returning to Papa John's for next year.**

Agenda Item #3: Escript Phase II

Email Report from Alison Patton:

1. "Auto-earn" is the next step.
2. Parents are being asked to contact two outside family members to sign up (Canada is included).
3. There are links to the Escript documents and forms on the PC website.

Agenda Item #4: Jog-a-thon

Report by Anna Jimenez:

1. Volunteers are being solicited by the room parents.
2. Fresh 'n Easy is donating oranges.
3. Trader Joe's/Pacific Beach is donating water. TJ/Point Loma hasn't been forthcoming with donations.
4. Jamba Juice/Pacific Beach is donating, but JJ/Point Loma is not.

Agenda Item # 5: Annual Appeal

Report by Cindy Borkum

1. To date, \$75,000 of the \$100,000 goal has been raised, including grandparent donations, pledges and collected monies. So far, 80 families have donated.

2. There will be a phone bank on Feb. 10th at Explorer. Parent volunteers will use their own cell phones to gently remind families who haven't yet donated, that their contribution is greatly appreciated.
3. An email notice will go out on Feb. 3rd to let parents know that if they haven't given, a call will be coming.
4. Online donations are now available through HTH's website for just Explorer.

Agenda Item #6: Budget

Report by Tracy Wilkinson

1. \$371 received from gift card sales.
2. \$642 received from Liberty Station 4 Education event.
3. Pizza is on track to make \$6,000.
4. Escrip has reached half of its expected revenue.
5. \$570 received from boxtops/recycling.
6. \$1,400 from interest on CD.
7. \$2,270 has been distributed for the first time for Sea Camp scholarships. Nine families received scholarships.
 - a. In the past, 5th grade classes have not done special "fundraising" for Sea Camp.
 - b. Meghan Bach offered to talk with 5th grade parents about creating a photo book to sell.
8. \$3000 has been distributed for Teacher Special Requests, which is also a first time distribution. The money went to Kindergarten ukeleles for Mr. Sarda, document cameras, and 5th grade science books.
9. Parent Council has transferred second and final \$50,000 contribution to Explorer.
10. Parent Council has an additional \$50,000 in a CD.
11. Off subject: Patti Bruffy asked HTHM Director if Explorer families could have special Q & A session with the Middle School Directors. They declined, but said that the door is always open to Explorer families with questions about middle school.

Agenda Item #7: Art From the Heart

Report by Reita Sebert

1. Because of an event at Rock Church that was just announced this week, the time for AFTH has been moved to 6:00. End time is 11.00. Parking will be tight for late arrivals.
2. Invitations are being designed by Maite Agahnia.
3. Parents have responded well to request for volunteers for specific duties/times.
4. Still need a MC/Auctioneer. Jill suggested Jim Bywater.
5. "Just for One" campaign for the auction hasn't produced a lot of donations. Reita will package anything so all donations are appreciated.
 - a. So far, \$18,500 in donations have been received, which is on par with prior years.
6. AFTH letters and donation forms are in the teacher mailroom.
7. Bank charges 3% for credit card sales. Normally, the school absorbs this fee, but AFTH has traditionally assessed on the purchasers.
 - a. [Following the meeting, an online discussion ensued about the propriety of charging AFTH guests this fee. The consensus reached was that the fee should be absorbed by the event because: 1) the school should keep a uniform policy; 2) we want to encourage more purchases, not fewer; 3)

guests are often surprised that fees has been charged (even though notice is given); and 4) some guests are unhappy about paying the fee. Reita suggested contacting the bank to ask about reducing the fee.]

- b. **→Decision: AFTH will absorb the bank fees assessed for credit card purchases.**
8. Vicky Ross will contact HTH about Catwalk volunteers exchange.
9. Because of budget increase this year, Reita has been able to hire service staff. She also is patching together several catering options, including Tess and Jesse Brown, Explorer parents.
10. Bulletin boards will go up on 2/18.
11. Wine cellar collections will start on 3/9.
12. San Diego Gym (located in Liberty Station) has offered to host an Explorer-only babysitting service at their gym on the evening of the event. Cost would be \$40 for one child; \$20 for each sibling (ages 5 and up) for 5 hours.
 - a. Families who have used the gym report being happy with the facility. Coach has also taken students to work out there.
 - b. **→ Decision: Consensus favored offering that service to parents.**
13. Favors-for-purchase will be pots with herbs created by the children.
14. There will be three give levels at the live auction (like last year).
15. Currently, there are no plans to create a video. Reita suggests that a special 10th anniversary year video be planned for next year.

Agenda Item #8: Principal Update

Report by Jill Green:

1. School returned from break seamlessly.
2. Special thanks to Michelle Hackney for creating the beautiful newsletter.
3. Special thanks also to Cindy Jensen-Elliott for her outstanding work with the garden. Cindy has created a wonderful garden blog where she details the integration of the garden into the grade-level curriculum. For example:
 - a. 1st grade has a butterfly and poetry garden
 - b. 2nd grade has an ancestor garden
 - c. 4th grade has a mission herb garden
 - d. 5th grade has composting
4. Tiveeda Stovall, founder and CEO of Excel Youth Zone and Explorer parent, has created a service learning program that will also be integrated into the curriculum.
5. Art Masks are now on display in the Gathering Area.
6. Faculty has been working on redefining rubrics and the calibration of program reports and writings.
7. Jill will conduct Applicant Orientations on 3/3 and 3/10. Your good thoughts are most appreciated because so many families want to attend and there are so few spaces. There will be 60 spaces for kindergarten next year and the school has already received over 800 applications.
8. PLNU and UCSD students are still visiting as are SDSU and foreign students.
9. Ron Berger, author of Excellent Work, came to HTH this month and spoke passionately and eloquently about the benefits of project-based, in-depth learning. Students should be encouraged to make esthetically beautiful products. After touring Explorer, he said that it is a model for both the quality of the children's work

and how the school displays it. He asked to use Explorer as an example for his future talks.

10. Rob Riordan, the "Emperor of Rigor" at HTH, has established a credential program at the HT Graduate School of Education for elementary teachers. Miss Casey and Coach O'Kelley are both participating. The students in the program toured Explorer and wrote beautiful reflections about our school.
11. Charter review is scheduled for 3/26. However, because AFTH is 3/28 and the school will be decorated for the event, Jill will ask about rescheduling for an earlier date.
12. The 5-year Charter renewal is scheduled for June.
13. Jed Wallace, HT COO and Explorer parent, has been named President of the California Charter Schools Association. He has moved to Sacramento but his family will stay in San Diego until the end of the school year.

Agenda Item #9: Last Thoughts

1. Amber Flores, Explorer parent and manager of Tropical Smoothies, wants to explore fundraising opportunities with her store, which is located next to San Diego Gymnastics in Liberty Station. She brought smoothie and sandwich samples to share.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Margaret Egler
Recording Secretary

Anna Jimenez
President