

Explorer Elementary Charter School

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

2:00 p.m.

- Attendance: Patti Bruffey, Gladys Garcia, Gretchen Gillingham, Jill Green, Wendy Hutchison, Anna Jimenez, Susie Kime, Jean Kluver, Priscilla Kowalsky, Erica Lund-Anastasakis, Nadi Ovanessoff, Tina Remley, Vicky Ross, Zoltan Sarda, Reita Sebert, Tracy Wilkinson, Teresa Zucchet, and Margaret Egler

Agenda Item #1: Approval of 1.27.09 Minutes

1. Wendy Hutchison moved to approve the minutes for Executive Parent Council. Gretchen Gillingham seconded. Unanimous approval.
2. Wendy Hutchison moved to approve the minutes for Parent Council. Tracy Wilkinson seconded. Unanimous approval.

Agenda Item #2: Budget

Report by Tracy Wilkinson:

1. Writing checks for Art for the Heart
2. Jog-a-thon
 - a. Expected revenue: \$22.5k
 - b. Budgeted revenue: \$16k
 - c. Last year: \$18.3k
3. No income from online gift wrap purchases (budget \$2k)
4. Gift card income behind budgeted revenue
5. Pizza revenue is up.

Agenda Item #3: Principal Update

Report by Jill Green:

1. Grandparents/Special Persons Day was wonderful.
2. Charter Review scheduled for 2/26
 - a. Three District officials will meet with staff, board and faculty
 - b. Jill will update the comprehensive boxes she prepared for last Charter Review.
 - c. Jill and Jean Kluver revised and updated current practices.
3. Charter Renewal scheduled for last spring.
4. Prospective family orientations set for 3/2 and 3/9. Zoltan Sarda, Amy Araiza and Jill will lead them.
 - a. Rock Church unexpectedly scheduled large event for 3/2. Parking will be very tight and streets will be blocked.
5. Staff Development Day scheduled for 3/16 with CPR training.
6. Parent-Teacher Conferences going on. Thank you to Amy Araiza for updating progress reports with the redefined rubrics.
7. 5th Grade Graduation will take place at school.
 - a. Gladys Garcia asked about Luce Auditorium. Jill responded that outside venues are expensive and impede the rehearsals.

8. Jill is teaching in each class. February 24 week she will be in the 3rd Grade. Loves participating in the class room because she is usually an observer.
9. Professor Ray Posey from PLNU loves our school and is interested in donating one day a week to teach music.

Agenda Item #4: Social Curriculum

Report by Zoltan Sarda

1. Zoltan circulated handout by Jean McCord about the unintended consequences of consequences. Research shows that creating unpleasant environment as a deterrence for future misbehavior is not supported. For example, in a study of 5-6 year-olds those who were told they'd be in big trouble if they played with a toy were more apt to play with the toy when the adult left them alone. In contrast, the children who were told that the adult would be disappointed if the child played with the toy, didn't.
2. Zoltan's own research is on schemas, which are the cognitive structures giving us an understanding of the world. For example, in certain South Pacific cultures, people "face" the past and have their "backs" to the future. Language shapes how we view the world.

Agenda Item # 5: Annual Appeal

Report by Jean Kløver

1. Phone bank was successful. Prior to the email and phone calls, the campaign had stalled at \$75,000. Now it stands at \$97,000.
2. Jean's currently working on the budget for 2009-2010. There will likely be mid-year budget cuts of \$40k-\$50k. School may have to run a deficit for the first time, but there is money in reserve. Salaries have been frozen and there will be cut-backs.
3. Next year, there may be an additional \$150k cut from the state funds.
 - a. Class-size reduction for K-3 is under review. If 1-2 students are added, that will provide more ADA (Average Daily Attendance) money.
 - b. The new budget has relaxed the class-size reduction restrictions.
4. Jean has uploaded classroom projects and curriculum onto the website.
5. Priscilla Kowalsky reported that \$163 in boxtops have been received. She would like a big box for cell phone and toner recycling. Jill would like to table that until after Charter Review.
6. Tropical Smoothie fundraiser set for Wednesday, 2/25. We may want to explore a monthly set-up.

Agenda Item #6: Art From the Heart

Report by Reita Sebert

1. Garden theme: "Growing Up Explorer"
2. Invitations will be mailed on Saturday, 2/28. Many thanks to Maite Agahnia for creating the beautiful invitations.
3. Update flyer will be sent home first week of March.
4. Teacher outings are set.
5. Wine Cellar donations:
 - a. 110-160 bottles are divided into 4 cellars. Brings in about \$2k
 - b. Raffle tickets are given with a donation.

6. Auction donations are up to \$55k. But Just One Campaign not hugely successful: Only 45/215 families have donated. And 40/45 donated last year. 38/45 are from the upper grades.
7. Volunteers: Cat Walk, Starbucks and hired staff.
8. Crunch Time Popcorn has asked for volunteers to sell popcorn at Padres' Opening Day. They will donate 50% of proceeds to school. Jan will send email out to school.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Margaret Egler
Recording Secretary

Anna Jimenez
President