

Explorer Elementary Charter School

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

2:00 p.m.

- Attendance: Meghan Bach, Patti Bruffey, Gladys Garcia, Gretchen Gillingham, Jill Green, Wendy Hutchison, Therese Hymer, Anna Jimenez, Susie Kime, Erica Lund-Anastasakis, Nadi Ovanessoff, Alison Patton, Tina Remley, Andrea Rose, Vicky Ross, Reita Sebert, Tiveeda Stovall, Tracy Wilkinson, Teresa Zucchet, and Margaret Egler

Agenda Item #1: Approval of 2.24.09 Minutes

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

Agenda Item #2: Budget

Report by Tracy Wilkinson:

1. Jog-a-thon
 - a. Expected revenue: \$23k (with a few more checks to deposit)
 - b. Budgeted revenue: \$16k
 - c. Last year: \$18.3k
 - d. High participation level possibly because of 1) timing; 2) fewer other fundraisers; and/or 3) greater awareness of need.
2. Pizza revenue is great.
3. Yearbook on schedule to break-even or make a little money that could be used to subsidize some 5th Grade Yearbooks.
4. \$100k reserves currently in CD.

Agenda Item #3: Art from the Heart Update

Report by Reita Sebert

1. 210 RSVPs currently in.
 - a. Approximately 250 expected
 - b. 2008 attendance: 275 (there were a number of walk-ups)
2. Expenses are significantly under budget.
 - a. Reita is donating 3 ½ days of vacation time to the event. Thank you!
3. Thursday is the main decoration day.
 - a. Challenge that school play stage will be constructed in the middle of the Gathering Area. Reita will work around that by using the Library for wine cellar raffles and Teacher Outings.
4. Rentals arrive by Friday between 8-1.
5. Volunteers: Seven volunteers from HTH. Paid staff for food and clean-up.
6. Banyon Catering (Explorer parents Jesse and Tess Brown), Tropical Smoothies (Explorer parent Amber Flores) and Karl Strauss (Reita) are

- providing food. The wine order has been increased to 12 cases and a bottle will be placed on the tables during the Live Auction.
7. Explorer will absorb the 3% credit card charge for auction purchases.
 8. Minimum bids have been lowered to 25% of value.
 9. If a parent cannot attend, Reita can provide bidder numbers to a friend for bidding purposes. Sealed bids can be made for Live Auction purchases.
 10. Reg Borkum and John Thicksun will be the auctioneers.
 11. The Niegocki family is helping with the playlist. Vicky Ross offered to help with additional DJ options.
 12. Help needed:
 - a. Thursday – normal school hours
 - b. Friday – noon to dusk
 - c. Saturday – as needed
 13. Programs are done.
 14. Rock Church Academy is hosting an event for 200 people. Jill will ask them about their parking situation.

Agenda Item #4: Principal Update

Report by Jill Green:

1. Board will review and approve the budget at their April meeting.
2. Teacher pregnancies will result in both 5th Grade classes having team teachers. We will also hire a new 4th Grade teacher.
3. Staff Development Day on 3/16:
 - a. Hein Malesky did an extraordinary job reporting on the California Conference for the Gifted.
 - b. Presented Benjamin Zander TED video.
 - c. Zoltan Sarda led discussion on attachment theory.
 - d. CPR training
4. Ray Posey from PLNU will be unable to provide music instruction, but a possible parent volunteer may.
5. HTH Graduate School of Education will offer credentialing for elementary as well as single-subject next year. Two Explorer aides will take the classes free of charge.
6. There is hope for a big grant to provide resources for instructing 15 elementary-credential students at Explorer. This would further the school's goal of serving as a lab school and disseminating our model. The newly-minted teachers could then possibly serve as faculty if High Tech creates a K-8 school at another location.
7. Heartfelt thanks to Reita Sebert, Teresa Zucchet and Kathy Saucedo for their outstanding work on Art from the Heart!
8. To counter the budget cuts, Explorer will enroll two additional students in each K-3 class. There will be 20 open spots for next year's kindergarten class.
9. The lottery has been completed.
 - a. There is a cap on faculty and board member children's priority admission.

- b. Weight was given for underrepresented zip codes and free/reduced lunch.

Agenda Item #5: Nominating Update

Report by Anna Jimenez

1. Nominating Committee is in the process of soliciting candidates for Executive Parent Council positions. The committee will create a slate of candidates.
2. The slate will be presented at the April meeting.
3. The slate will be voted on at the May meeting. Parent Council members who have attended two Parent Council meetings (no time limit) are eligible to serve on the Executive Parent Council and to vote.

Agenda Item #6: Other Thoughts

1. Alison Patton reported that Outside the Lens ("OTL") is fully-funded this year and that Explorer parent and OTL founder, Elisa Thomson, has been able to receive reimbursement for her services.
 - a. The cost of the program to Explorer is \$7.5k (\$4k from Parent Council; \$3.5k from 3rd Grade families). The normal cost of the program is \$15k per class.
 - b. Third Graders are selling Haiku notecards and hope to raise \$2k-\$3k for next year's classes.
 - c. Next year's Third Grade families will be requested to donate \$30 for the program.
 - d. There will still be a \$3k-\$4k gap that will need to be covered to continue the program.
 - e. Art from the Heart will have a whole section devoted to OTL to educate parents in the lower grades about the benefits of this program.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Margaret Egler
Recording Secretary

Anna Jimenez
President