

Explorer Elementary Charter School

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

2:20 p.m.

- Attendance: Patti Bruffey, Gretchen Gillingham, Jill Green, Victoria Huckins, Wendy Hutchison, Therese Hymer, Anna Jimenez, Jean Kluver, Erica Lund-Anastasakis, Nadi Ovanessoff, Alison Patton, Vicky Ross, Reita Sebert, Elisa Thomson, Tracy Wilkinson, Teresa Zucchet, and Margaret Egler

Agenda Item #1: Minutes Approval

1. Wendy Hutchison moved to approve the 3.24.09 Parent Council Minutes; Tracy Wilkinson seconded. Approved.

Agenda Item # 2: Art from the Heart

Report by Reita Sebert, Chair, AFTH

1. Fundraising Results – A Success!
 - a. Net Revenue Goal: \$60,000
 - b. Net Revenue Realized: \$75,000
 - c. Gross Sales for 2008: \$99,000
 - d. Gross Sales for 2009: \$92,000
2. Attendance was up. Fund-a-project and Teacher Outings were down.
3. Survey results indicated that the ticket price affected attendance, but there isn't a feasible way to reduce the cost.
4. There were a few mistakes due to miscommunication (e.g., items were pulled from envelopes during the auction prep).
5. There will be improvements to the sound system next year.
6. Next year will be Explorer's 10th Anniversary.

Agenda Item #3: Outside the Lens ("OTL")

Report by Alison Patton

1. Third grade photography program is run by Explorer parent, Elisa Thomson. OTL normally charges \$15,000 per class for its services, but only charges Explorer a flat fee of \$7,500, regardless of number of classes.
2. Budget breakdown for 2008-2009
 - a. \$4,000 from Parent Council
 - b. \$3,500 from 3rd grade families
 - i. \$1,800 raised through \$30 contributions
 - ii. \$1,200 raised by individual contributions
3. Recommendations for 2009-2010
 - a. \$3,500 raised through selling Haiku note cards can be applied to next year's budget.
 - b. Funds raised for OTL at Art from the Heart should be separate from AFTH revenues.
 - i. \$1,596 raised at AFTH (revenue minus AFTH expenses) will be coded for OTL.

Agenda Item #4: Budget

Report by Tracy Wilkinson

1. There will be a separate line-item for OTL funds in 2009-2010 budget.
2. Jog-a-thon netted \$23,795. The goal was \$16,000.
3. Three IOUs from families have been forgiven.

Agenda Item: #5: School Budget

Report by Jean Kluver

1. Board of Directors passed school budget for 2009-2010.
 - a. \$2.9 million
 - b. Lean
 - i. No cost of living or step increases.
 - ii. Library cut to minimum.
 - iii. No staff development.
 - iv. Science cut, but PBSJ grant will be used to offset cut.
 - c. Increased class size in K-3 by two students.
 - d. Assumes continued PC contribution of \$100,000 and Annual Campaign contribution of \$100,000.
 - e. Possibly additional cuts to ADA funding if Propositions fail.
 - f. Teachers are completely supportive.

Agenda Item #5: Fundraising Update

Report by Vicky Ross

1. No gift wrap or other purchased items were offered this year.
2. Art Cards and Gift Cards are back on the table for discussion next year.
3. Tropical Smoothies (Explorer parent Amber Flores) will offer fundraising opportunity on Fridays.
4. Liberty Station for Education is up in the air for next year. Raised only \$600 for Explorer.

Agenda Item #6: Nominating Slate

1. Margaret Egler presented 2009-2010 Nominating Slate with the new position of VP Webmaster. A vote will be taken at the June Parent Council meeting to amend the bylaws to expand the Executive Parent Council to accommodate the new position. Approval of the slate will also be voted on in June.

Agenda Item #7: Principal Report

Report by Jill Green

1. Many thanks to parents for Teacher Appreciation week.
2. We've enrolled 90 new children for 2009-2010.
3. Jill has been teaching a lesson in each classroom this year.
4. Teacher Changes:
 - a. Karen Feitelberg, a veteran teacher from Solana Beach, has been hired to teach 4th grade.
 - b. Rebecca Sanford will teach Second Step.
 - c. A new parent has volunteered to teach music for K-3 and conduct projects for 4th and 5th.

- d. Christine Kuhl will attend an intensive writer's workshop this summer and co-teach 5th grade with Hein Malesky.
 - e. Cindy Jensen-Elliott will teach one day a week with Diana Glover as well as continue with Garden.
 - f. Cheryl Ritter will return for 8 weeks to co-teach 5th grade with Becky Frost until Ashley Carrico returns from maternity leave.
 - g. Robin Kochon will teach with Brooke Newman.
5. Everyone's a Reader volunteer tea on May 21st will have songs and haiku.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Margaret Egler
Recording Secretary

Anna Jimenez
President