

Explorer Elementary Charter School

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

2:00 p.m.

- Attendance: Anna Jimenez, Vicky Ross, Gladys Garcia, Gretchen Gillingham, Jana Fortune, Nadi Ovanessoff, Wendy Hutchison, Tracy Wilkinson, Cindy Borkum, Jean Kluver, Jill Green, Teresa Zucchet, Reita Sebert, Medy Wundrow, Sam Przywizowski, Therese Hymer, Jenna Price, Meghan Bach, Monika Crawford, Kelly Moore, Heather Underhill, Fabiola Murillo and Margaret Egler

Agenda Item #1: Approval of 6/08 Minutes

Jana Fortune moved and Reita Sebert seconded. Approved.

Agenda Item #2: Board of Directors Update – Nadi Ovanessoff

Report:

1. **Fundraising:** Board discussed consolidation of Parent Council fundraising (e.g. AFTH, Annual Campaign, special events) under one umbrella. Discussed grade-level receptions to increase contributions.
2. **Student Numbers:** 321 students total. 55 new students. 1200 on wait list.
3. **Teachers/Staff Updates:** Robin Kochon is now teaching 2 days in 3rd grade. There are 5 HTH interns.
4. **Enrichment:**
 - a. Choir has 60 students and 30 on the wait list.
 - b. Homework Club is picking up.
 - c. Tiveedia Stoval is working on bringing community service projects to Explorer.
 - d. Zoltan Sarda and Shelly Halpain, an Explorer parent and neurobiologist at UCSD, will present an evening talk on Social Relationships, Emotions and the Developing Mind on Thursday 9/25/08.
5. **Absentee Contracts:** Parents need to fill out homework contracts for extended trips to that Explorer can receive funding for the days the student misses school.
6. **Budget and Faculty Handbook:** Reviewed and updated.
7. **Staff Presentation:** Anne Terry (speech & language specialist) spoke about how she helps students work through social issues.
8. **Charter Renewal:** Due in Spring '09.
 - a. **Note:** Jill spoke up about the process of charter renewal and stated that it occurs every 5 years and is designed to assess whether school is meeting its charter goals. This year, HTH COO, Jed Wallace, will lead the renewal, which will be approved the Board of Directors. Explorer will provide an update on the academic curriculum, financial situation, social emotional program to give an accurate reflection of current status.
9. **World Café:** Parents and board may sit in on session.
10. **Media:** HTH covered by the News Hour with Jim Lehrer on PBS.

Agenda Item #3: Nov. 3-7 Scholastic Book Fair – Kelly Moore

Issue: Currently, there is \$4,400 remaining in book credit from 2007-2008.

Action: Extend credit to teachers in new grades (Glover, Hawke, Schultz, Malesky, and Lim).

Issue: Evening party will take place on Wednesday, 11/5, to coordinate with Liberty Station for Education.

Action: Committee will contact food vendors in Liberty Station to donate refreshments. They will also order more books aimed at adults for the party.

Issue: Publicity

Action: Committee will hang posters at HT schools and send out eblasts.

Issue: “One for Books” campaign. Explorer has relationship with Sky City Community School on a Native American reservation in New Mexico.

Action: Committee will solicit donations, educate Explorer community about our partner school, and perhaps deliver the donated books in person.

Agenda Item #5: Kids Korps – Kelly Moore

Report:

1. Committee (Kelly Moore, Jana Fortune, Kathy Saucedo and Medy Wundrow) is holding an after-school informational meeting on Monday 9/29.
2. There will be four service projects and all can accommodate a high number of volunteers. The first project is in October for a river clean-up.
3. KK will track service hours.
4. Teachers and staff are welcome to join.
5. Membership fee is \$48 and registrations are available online.
6. Questions to pc.kidskorps@explorerelementary.org

Agenda Item # 6: Principal Jill Green

Report:

1. **New School Year:** School started well and we have three new staff members: Hein Malesky (5th grade) and Robyn and Rebecca (instructional assistants)
2. **Explorer’s Mission:** Part of Explorer’s Mission is to share practices with other schools. Have entered partnership with Point Loma Nazarene University. Explorer has 5 PLNU interns and 5 HTH interns.
3. **Parent Education:** Zoltan Sarda and Shelly Halpain’s Parent Education talk will present clear findings of how the brain is affected by positive relationships.
4. **Staff Development:** Teresa Zucchet will give staff development talk. October’s Staff Development Day will focus on assessment standards. Nancy Cole will present gifted teaching strategies in December. Teachers will attend the CA Association for the Gifted Conference in February.
5. **Appreciation:** Thanks to Jana Fortune, Medy Wundrow, Michelle Hackney & Alice Chan for the School Picnic. Thanks to faculty for Back to School Night. Thanks to Zoltan Sarda for building playground deck. The 2007-2008 5th graders donated 1 bench and 3 are still open for donation.
6. **Parent Council Funds:** PC will provide some scholarships to Sea Camp based on teacher requests.
7. **Music Program:** Jill responded to question about formal music program by stating that a meeting is planned to discuss it. Katrina Thomas is focusing on 4th and 5th grade special music projects. Choir instructor will undertake some music instruction throughout the school year.

Agenda Item #7: Budget – Tracy Wilkinson

Report: PC membership exceeded projections. All checks have been deposited.

Agenda Item #8: Open Forum

1. Spanish will remain volunteer-provided.
1. Choir will sing at Liberty Station for Education – Vicky Ross
2. AFTH is March 28th – Reita Sebert.
 - a. Theme is “Growing Up Explorer”
 - b. Children’s projects will be hand-made pots and plants
 - c. Anna Jimenez informed Reita that Art Cards are available as a fundraiser because PC will not be offering them this year.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Margaret Egler
Recording Secretary

Anna Jimenez
President