

Explorer Elementary Charter School

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

7:00 p.m.

- Attendance: Jana Fortune, Gladys Garcia, Jill Green, Wendy Hutchison, Anna Jimenez, Katarina Keane, Priscilla Kowalsky, Tina Remley, Vicky Ross, Zoltan Sarda, Tracy Wilkinson, Medy Wundrow and Margaret Egler

**Agenda Item #1: Approval of 10.28.08 Minutes**

Tracy Wilkinson moved to approve the minutes. Jana Fortune seconded. Unanimous approval.

**Agenda Item #2: Gift Card Update**

**Report by Jana Fortune:**

1. Gift Cards are now available for order through December 12, 2008.
2. Liberty Station For Education gift card purchases ended in November.

**Agenda Item #3: Art From The Heart**

**Email Report from Reita Sebert:**

1. Donation letters are ready and waiting to be mailed out in January.
2. The AFTH newsletter is ready and will be sent home with the children in the Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday folder. The main purpose of the letter is to introduce AFTH to everyone, give the date and request help.
3. Reita emphasizes that if every family were to give one auction item, we would have over 225 items. Every donation counts. Gift cards would be most welcome. She's also accepting any holiday gift rejects – anything unopened and unused can find a new home at AFTH.
4. Reita is the sole chair of the event. Discussion ensued about asking for an assistant chair or chair-elect. Jana Fortune will review the list of volunteers to see if there is a good candidate. There is concern that because Reita has done the event for three years, Parent Council needs to help groom a successor.

**Agenda Item #4: Book Fair**

**Email Report from Kelly Moore:**

1. **Issue: In what form do we want to take the profit?**
2. **Background:**
  - a. Gross revenue from event = \$11,578.22
  - b. Gross revenue minus Parent Council \$5 coupon contribution = \$9,710.
  - c. Net Profit can be taken in two forms:
    - i. Cash = \$2,100
    - ii. Scholastic Voucher Credit = \$5,000
  - d. We also have outstanding Scholastic Voucher Credit from the Spring 2008 Book Fair = \$1,686.05
3. **Kelly Moore Recommendation:**

- a. Give outstanding Voucher Credit to the library for Scholastic purchases. Marsha Korobkin, our Librarian, would like this amount and is ready to purchase books, if approved.
  - b. Opt to receive this year's proceeds in Voucher Credit form. Assess teacher/classroom needs and build class libraries and resources.
  - c. Any remaining Voucher Credit to be carried over and/or given to the Library.
4. **Discussion:**
- a. Because Voucher Credit can only be used on Scholastic books, there may be a greater need to take a portion of the profit in cash form so that the Librarian can purchase books from other publishers.
5. → **Resolution:**
- a. The Librarian can use the outstanding Scholastic credit to purchase books.
  - b. Zoltan Sarda, the teacher liaison with Parent Council, will work with Kelly Moore to identify teacher needs for Scholastic books to augment the curriculum.
  - c. All remaining profit will be taken in cash form and given to the Library to purchase non-Scholastic books.

**Agenda Item # 5: Liberty Station for Education**

**Report by Vicky Ross**

- 1. Vicky asked for reaction from the restaurant tasting. Jana Fortune reported that there was some confusion about where to go for the tasting because some people were expecting a central location. Those that attended reported good food.
- 2. The event raised \$4,000, which will be split evenly among the six HT Village schools.
- 3. Positive reaction to the choir and the bands.
- 4. There may have been some conflict with the Book Fair as there did not appear to be much cross-over traffic.
- 5. Businesses reported positive feedback from the event.
- 6. Vicky suggested that next year the restaurant tasting should be one long period rather than two shorter ones.

**Agenda Item #6: Board of Directors Update**

**Report by Jill Green**

- 1. Jill has met with the other members that form the corporation that runs the High Tech Schools at Liberty Station.
- 2. Margaret Egler was voted onto the Board of Directors.

**Agenda Item #7: Principal Report**

**Report by Jill Green**

- 1. Explorer is continuing its strong relationship with Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) and UCSD.
- 2. Staff Development Day with a gifted teaching consultant has been postponed due to illness.
- 3. The State is making a 2-4 % mid-year cut in the budgeted Average Daily Attendance (ADA). Consequently, Explorer anticipates a possible \$40,000 shortfall in funding from the State.

- a. **Issue:** Explorer may not be able to offer a music program as planned in January. To fund a full-year music program costs \$20,000. To fund a half-year program costs \$9,000.
- b. **Discussion:** Tina Remley suggested looking into the alternative ways to provide music by contacting the PLNU Strings Project. Tracy Wilkinson suggested funding the music program with Parent Council funds. Jill responded that Parent Council may have other funding priorities given the \$40,000 budget shortfall. Anna Jimenez emphasized that many parents were anticipating music this spring and had asked her about it. There was concern that arts are always the first item cut in a budget crisis. Gladys Garcia suggested that music be targeted just to the two older grades similar to the Outside the Lens program in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- c. → **Resolution:** Once the ADA cuts are fully known, Jill will report back to Parent Council about funding special music projects that can augment the curriculum. Jill will communicate with Explorer families to let them know what's going on.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Treasurer Update**

##### **Report by Tracy Wilkinson:**

1. Book Fair surpassed the budgeted revenue amount of \$8,000.
2. We have received \$125 in recycling refunds.
3. Book Fair garnered \$113 for the "One for Books" campaign. This will benefit the Sky City Community School on a Native American reservation in New Mexico.
4. Classroom funds have been well-funded.

#### **Agenda Item #9: Social/Emotional Curriculum**

##### **Report by Zoltan Sarda:**

1. Zoltan handed out a sheet explaining psychologist Diana Baumrind's typology of parenting styles. According to Baumrind, children do best where parents demonstrate a high degree of responsiveness *and* demandingness. The definition of responsiveness is: "The extent to which parents intentionally foster individuality, self-regulation, and self-assertion by being attuned, supportive, and acquiescent to children's special needs and demands." Demandingness, in turn, refers to "the claims parents make on children to become integrated into the family whose, by their maturity demands, supervision, disciplinary efforts and willingness to confront the child who disobeys."
2. Zoltan will soon have available at the front desk his academic article on the "Great Lego Caper," an examination of what took place in his kindergarten class last year when one of his students "stole" Legos from the classroom.

#### **Agenda Item #10: Additional Fundraising Update**

##### **Report by Priscilla Kowalsky:**

1. A big thanks to Kids Korps for assisting in gathering the following items.
2. Boxtops for Education has brought in \$319.
3. Cellphone recycling has raised \$31
4. Toner recycling has raised \$20
5. Campbell's points are now at 1,845.

6. **Action** → Priscilla will send out an email reminder to parents about these fundraising opportunities.

**Agenda Item #11: Last Thoughts**

1. Many thanks to Michelle Hackney for creating a beautiful newsletter that distributed electronically to the Explorer community last month.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Margaret Egler  
Recording Secretary

Anna Jimenez  
President