
EMERSON JUNIOR HIGH PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION MEETING January 8, 2008

Present: Frances McChesney, Gustavo Soberano, Ellen Dean, Kyria Boundy Mills, Ellen Moratti, Tana Tolson, Diane Studley, Jill Van Zanten, Elizabeth King, Joanne Bevins

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

1. Introductions Frances called the meeting to order and had everyone introduce themselves.

2. Minutes The minutes from the November 13, 2007 meeting were reviewed by those present. Tana moved to approve the minutes. Liz seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

3. Principal and School Staff's Remarks/Questions District School Boundaries Dr. Studley said that the first recommendations for new school boundaries address the closure of Valley Oak Elementary and where the self-contained elementary school GATE programs will be housed. The new superintendent is emphasizing neighborhood schools. She said that ca. 30 people came to the Junior High boundary meeting held here at Emerson in November. She asked Emerson parents for input on bringing a self-contained GATE program to Emerson. In the past, there has been an emphasis on inclusiveness at Emerson. Some community members feel that GATE programs can be divisive to a school's environment. Jill said that having the choice of a non-GATE junior high is important, and that GATE counseling services, etc. are available from the district whether or not your child is enrolled in a self-contained GATE program.

Homework Policy At the District Principals' meeting the homework policy concerns were brought up, and Dr. Studley discussed proper resolution of homework issues – basically good communication with the teacher involved. Frances was at a superintendent parent advisory district meeting, and the homework policy was brought up at that meeting as well. Jill thinks that there is an overall homework load problem and that children are staying up way too late at night. Frances again said that it is ok to approach individual teachers or the principal or a counselor. Dr. Studley has brought the issue up with the Emerson faculty recently as well. She has reminded them that homework is supposed to be limited to 20 minutes. Gustavo said that reworking/revisiting the district homework policy is important in order to come up with a workable solution. One of the outcomes of recent meetings with DJUSD representatives about this issue was their suggestion that Ruth Santer go to all the PTAs to get suggestions on how to solve the homework load issue.

4. Treasurer's Report Ellen Moratti reported that we have \$13,080 in our checking account. We also have \$5709 in the savings account. She asked for approval for the following check:

Check 1162 \$170.28 to Frances McChesney for fundraising
letter supplies and mailing

Kyria moved to approve the check, and Tana seconded the motion. The motion passed. Ellen M. also said that she deposited \$1400 in donations today.

5. Teachers' Requests for Funds (see attachment) Frances handed out the Emerson teachers' requests for funds. Dr. Studley read the requests and commented on each one. Dr. Studley can fund Ms. Kimmel's request, if needed. Mr. Phillip's request might have some funding from the Emerson site council and the district (only ca. \$1000 would be needed from the PTA). Some of Ms. Wolfe's cameras that were purchased last year were stolen, and so they are requested again this year. Mr. Fahlen might not need the jerseys - clarification is needed if the jerseys are for this year or next year.

Frances said that we only have \$1400 to spend on these requests at the moment. We might need some PTA dollars to fund supplies for the fundraisers discussed below. Ellen M. said that we have \$18,000 in the bank. Frances made a motion to award up to \$1000 for Tim McCormick's program and to amend the budget to reflect that. It was approved.

6. Fundraising Ideas Carnival Gustavo and Frances found out about a carnival fundraiser that runs for a weekend and has 15-20 rides. The school has to put up money for a dumpster, toilets, and security (ca. \$1300 - perhaps some of the needs can be partly donated). The parents/kids sell the tickets ahead of time for the rides, or they can be purchased on the day. The PTA gets 25% of the proceeds up to the first \$5000 and 30% thereafter. The space at Emerson has been examined by the company and Emerson's layout is adequate, but they suggested doing it at Harper and splitting the proceeds with that PTA. No one has spoken to Harper yet. Frances has been looking at dates in May. Kyria asked if another school around here had done this fundraiser, and no Davis school has tried it yet. The information given indicates that the funds raised for the sponsoring organization are in the \$7000 to \$15,000 range. The carnival organization has insurance, and they have never had an accident. Frances said that Jamba Juice could sell drinks, and they also give donate part of their proceeds. In order to not impact the surrounding community with parking issues, Gustavo said that we could encourage people to bike and there could be bike valet parking that could be a fundraiser and provide security for the bikes. There was a consensus that the PTA would rather have the event at Emerson rather than at Harper.

Fundraising letter Frances spent ca. \$170 on producing and mailing the fundraising letter and it has raised ca. \$1400.

E-Scrip Report Kyria said that \$500 came in for the month of September, \$300 for October. They got \$120 from Nugget. Savemart still is delayed, and she needs our federal tax id number, a voided check, and a signature of an authorized person.

Other Ellen M. contacted Super Suppers about having a possible fundraising evening at their store, and she never heard back from them. Virgini is contacting Ohana Hawaiian Barbeques. Frances asked Dr. Studley if Emerson already recycles ink cartridges as a fundraiser, and she said that they do. Pat Dressendorfer in science might be the coordinator.

7. Announcements/Information Superintendent/Parent Advisory Committee Mtg Frances said that the Superintendent says that the district budget is in really bad shape, and it might affect funding to upgrade Emerson. The district lost 180 more students this year.

Teacher Work Day Hospitality Tana said that January 28 is a teacher work day and traditionally the PTA provides refreshments for the teachers. Tana asked what the budget for hospitality is, and Ellen D. said the hospitality budget is \$300 for the year. Tana can speak to Jerry, Dr. Studley's secretary about what needs to be done. Logistics for that day were discussed. Tana is going to ask for contributions via the listserve.

Frances announced a coming Parent Ed Night "The Care and Keeping of a Teen – Nurturing the Body, Mind, and Spirit" offered at Holmes Jan. 15th 7:30-9 pm

Frances announced that Career Days is coming up in February/March. They need speakers.

PTA goals – Frances wanted the board to think about what they want to accomplish this year.

Budget approval: Frances announced that the budget discussed at the October meeting was approved by email after the November meeting. The budget discussed in October was published in the Emerson Eagle in November and is attached to these minutes including the \$1000 amount approved at this meeting.

Gustavo contacted the PTA Webmaster and she said that she needs to be contacted specifically when something needs to be posted – not a general contact.

The meeting was adjourned by Frances at 8:45 p.m. Minutes submitted by Ellen Dean, February 12, 2008.