

Albert Einstein Elementary
PTSA General Membership Meeting
October 6, 2009

Attendance: Our 2009-2010 Board: Michelle Sullivan, Melanie Williams, Margie Segress, Kari Haegele, Madhu Movva, Donna Muench, Penny Miller, Shauna Kennedy, Debbie Breer, Sumithra Balakrishnan, Deva Demeter, Rana Shafi, Kitty Tam, Jack Tobin, Amy Walter and attached attendance sheets.

Meeting called to order by Michelle Sullivan at 7:05 pm.

Minutes from the May 21, 2009 General Membership Meeting were approved.

Financial Report: Kari presented our current Financial Report. (See attached.)

- We've surpassed our Pass the Hat goal of \$15,000 with \$15,303 to-date. \$3,700 in matching funds. Still hoping to receive \$3,000 which would put us at over \$18,000 if all comes in.
- Our goal for PTSA membership was 240. As of today, we're at 287 which is the second highest number to-date (since our all-time high in the 2000/2001 school year).
- Movie Night was a success selling 284 tickets. Not a fundraiser per se but did have net profit which supports Safety Patrol's end-of-year party.
- Teacher Grants (\$350 per new teacher/\$250 per returning teacher): 30% of grant funds have been dispersed.

Election of 2009-2010 PTSA Officers: Melanie presented the revised board of officers.

MOTION: Deva Demeter made a motion to approve the new board as proposed. Kari Haegele seconded. All in favor.

Approval of 2009-2010 Standing Rules: Melanie presented the Standing Rules.

MOTION: Rana Shafi made a motion to approve the Standing Rules as written. Mary Locke seconded. All in favor.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Chip Kimball, *LWSD Superintendent*

- Goal of LWSD is ensuring that "every student is future-ready" in an increasingly global marketplace (committed to growth, improvement and advocacy for our children):
 - Schools to partner with parent community
 - Great teaching in every classroom for every child
 - Advocate for every child & for more funding (we're the 6th largest district in the state with some of the worst funding. WA has some of worst funding in country.)
- Q/A time:
 - Perception of Einstein as sub-standard school can be overcome by communication of accurate information & volunteering/participating in school. Curriculum is standardized across the district.

- Differentiation of students – provide support services at both ends of spectrum (for both high & lower achievers) through small class sizes & funding.
- Will do better job communicating AYP situation in future.
- Plans for new school (2014?) after which boundaries will be re-drawn.
- Federal mandates will most likely be re-evaluated within the next few years before more schools fall below standard.
- **Levy, Bond Measure Meetings begin tomorrow night:** seeking community input with regard to technology in LWSD schools, “replacement of major systems in our facilities, and the kinds of basic programs paid for by our educational and operations levy.” Will also address “potential overcrowding in the next several years and beyond.”
More information/exact meeting times & locations found at www.lwsd.org.

Public Brainstorming Session: Ideas on enhancing Einstein moving forward.

- **Volunteers:** Deva thanked all the volunteers who have enthusiastically jumped in so far. Still need: Art Docent aids, Classic Books Chair, Volunteers for Lunch Buddy program.
- Kari suggested a school-wide Spelling Bee (Madhu & Sumi were interested in helping)
- Diversity Night (desserts from different cultures)
- Tara Van Niman asked what school needs are since she knows of many parents who want to help school.
 - Jack mentioned Dramatic Arts Program—contacting company like Studio East to see what that would entail
 - Jack mentioned School beautification projects (weeding, etc)
 - Lego/Robot Clubs—science challenges
 - Technology Club—update/upkeep computers & computer labs
 - Classic Books/Book Club
 - Math Club
- Brainstormed ways to welcome in diverse families. Candida Crane has committee working on this. Suggested using resources that currently exist in LWSD (Audubon Elementary, for example, has very diverse population & a PTSA that has it “down pat”). Spanish language class as part of the curriculum was discussed—Jack welcomed people to join his committee work on that & related issues.
- Blog: www.myeinstein.org has parents discussing ways to help. Ideas include:
 - Large capital project: Covered play structure or other serious fundraising project
 - Intermediate program between regular curriculum & Quest—not as exclusive as Quest.
- PTSA has Beck Boa grant money but would like committee to help drive ideas for its use.

Two more General Membership Meetings for the year: January 28, 2010 & April 22, 2010.

Meeting adjourned by Michelle at 8:53 pm.

The above minutes were submitted by Margie Segress, Secretary.