

Minutes: EGRPS Middle School PTSA
January 29, 2008
9:00 am

Welcome and Introductions

Andi Allen, President

Thanks to Dawn Abbott for delicious refreshments.

Student Council Report

Emma Hall

Old News: students collected 1800 cans for food drive. The Spirit Assembly was very successful and students liked the Spirit Can. 6th graders won that competition. Students beat the Teachers in basketball.

New Student Fundraiser: Pasta For Pennies, last year raised \$2100. Students bring change to homeroom and the rooms compete, with the winner receiving a pasta party sponsored by the Olive Garden. Proceeds go to Leukemia/Lymphoma society. Need parent volunteers to take the change (collected in milk jugs) to the 5/3 bank in Gaslight. See Dale Streeter if you are able to help with this.

The next dance is on Feb 15 and will have a Valentine's Day theme. 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

Superintendent's Report

Sara Shubel

We The People team has won the State Championship and will go on to Nationals. This is a tremendous honor. These students now need to generate funds for their trip to Nationals. Look for information on their mock demonstration: they will be selling tickets for this evening performance at the HS. Also, a Silent Auction will be held in February.

EGR Schools won the Silver Award from US News & World Report: EGR HS in the top 3% in the nation. Dr. Shubel remarked that this is a collective accomplishment for all our teachers K-12.

Please attend the Legislative Coffee with Congressman Ehlers on Feb 11 at 9:00 at the High School. This is an important opportunity to ask about Federal legislation that affects our schools. Dr. Shubel remarked that our legislators need to hear about the impact of their bills on districts like ours. They get a lot of feedback from urban districts.

Dr. Shubel mentioned the letter that was sent out in December about S.A.L.T., a program designed to enhance and strengthen our relationship with public safety departments. Chief Harold approached Sara in the fall with a desire to improve recognition of all of the officers in the community, especially in the elementary schools. Police officers have been rotating through the schools more frequently. Bike Officers are also involved in the Spring/Summer. Peter remarked that he has received positive feedback.

School Board: There is a Board Election on May 6. Two seats are open. Persons interested in running for these positions need to file by Feb 14. Collaboration between the Board and Administration is vital for a successful K-12 system. Call or e-mail Sara with any questions or for more information.

Administrative Reports

Peter Stuursma

January is Board Appreciation Month: at their most recent meeting, each Board member was presented with a plaza brick, as appreciation for their work.

Peter reported for Teacher Representative Kris Bratlie: A new recycling station is being set up near the garbage cans at lunch and a lunch-time celebration was planned. This effort has resulted from the 7th Grade visit to the city incinerator and water treatment plant. The students were very interested in this process and were motivated to improve recycling and trash procedures here at school.

Peter asks for continued patience and support as they work through bugs with the Skyward program. Response has generally been positive; the office would like to know if the system is not working for you.

25 MS students went to the MLK march downtown last week. This is always a good experience, helping students make connections with in their classwork concerning Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement.

Newsletter Changes: Evon Roberts will be taking over the newsletter from Harry Coffill. To have items included in the Friday newsletter, e-mails should be received by Wednesday, with "Newsletter" in the Subject line. We are continuing to work on the format. It was noted that the items in the sidebar are helpful.

Calendar work for next year is ongoing. School will start day after Labor Day. Students will have no school on the day prior to Thanksgiving. Holiday dates will be consistent with KISD. Spring Break is always 1st week in April. Some decisions are yet to be determined: conferences, winter break, semester break, etc.

Special Day for 8th Graders on Feb 15 (Friday): HS Student Council wants to commemorate Kabookie Day (remembering Jimmy Gerken) with a special assembly. This event has been expanded: to invite the 8th graders for the Gerken assembly and to make the day a "transition fair" for the 8th graders. This should be a fun day, when the 8th graders can meet teachers and staff whom they will see when they come to HS. They'll get information (in small groups) about the guidance office, the 4-year plan and scheduling, the youth development teams, athletics, parking, open campus rules, and will end with an afternoon Spirit Assembly. (This replaces the "elective fair" at lunch that was going to be here at the MS.)

This Transition Fair is informational only: parents and students will still have the formal academic planning appointments on March 17, 19, 20. Information will come from the HS about those appointments.

Joann Kuklewski

Joann has been working on drops/adds for second semester. Lisa Healey, Linda Rupke, Linda Graham and Joann consider every request carefully and listen to all students' concerns. When requests can't be granted they hope that the students understand the reason behind the decision and feel that they have been listened to. Requests are considered whether they come from students or parents. Some requests require parental involvement.

The MLK march was a great experience. In February a video will be shown regarding the MLK memorial that is being built in Washington, DC. After seeing the video, students will be able to donate \$5 and get a bracelet that says "Build The Dream."

Committee/Liaison Reports

Legislation, Jodi MacLean

Nothing to report except to encourage attendance at the Coffee with Vern Ehlers.

The next Legislative Committee meeting is on March 3 at Woodcliff at 11:45 am.

Mini Grants & Rewards, Stacey Levitt

- Harry Coffill: new biographies for the media center: these are in high demand.
- English Teachers: professional story-teller for 7th graders.
- Holly Lampen: New small kiln for middle school art students. The old kiln is much larger, and it was necessary to wait long periods of time before enough items were ready to justify firing the kiln.

\$5600 out of \$10000 has been allocated. Request forms are available in the school office. You can find them in the Treasurer's box.

Susie Gerow

Susie reported on the Families in Need program, "Sunshine Fund." \$4000 was collected from parents and staff and \$500 from PTA. Thanks for the donations.

SAC, Suzanne Belanger

3-Day Staff Development (often during Winter Break): Jeanne Glowicki has lined up some great speakers and programs, including training for a 9th Grade Initiative for Diversity.

Old Business

November minutes were approved and will be submitted for the web site.

New Business

Janelle Henderson

The Survey will be conducted online this year and will be ready soon. Plans are being made to go online for three or four weeks. Will report the results at the April PTA meeting.

Betsy Bloom

Day of Caring: still need grade-specific volunteers, to keep track of drivers for each room.

Please let her know if you'd be willing to contact teachers and organize 5 (or so) drivers for each.

Time commitment for drivers is about 11:30 to 2:00 on Friday, May 9. All parents are encouraged to participate.

The Math-A-Thon will again raise money for St Jude's. Last year raised \$4000, in memory of Molly Cavara.

Please note the February 5 event with Author MaryBeth Hicks at 7:00 at the Little Auditorium.

Please support the Stage and Music Boosters at the HS. An event is being planned with the Second City Touring Co. The group will present a PG-13 show, (half scripted, half improv), on March 15. Tickets are available now; the form is available on the HS web site.

Important Dates:

Feb 4	Relay for Life Kick Off, Mayflower Church, 6:30 pm
Feb 5	Author MaryBeth Hicks at the Little Auditorium, 7:00 pm
Feb 8	6 th Grade Parent-Student Fun Night, 7:00 pm
Feb 11	Legislative Coffee with Vern Ehlers, at High School, 9:00 am
Feb 14	8 th Grade Scholarship Concert at the PAC
Feb 18-22	Winter Break, NO SCHOOL
Feb 25-29	6 th Grade Stanford Testing
Feb 25	Spring Sport Sign Ups
Feb 27	Progress Reports Online

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, Feb 26, at 9:00 am, Community Room.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted by Jodi MacLean, Recording Secretary
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