

November 2, 2009
Marguerite Montgomery PTA Meeting
Minutes

Call to order:

Meeting called to order by Tricia Bosco at 7:08 PM.

Present: Amanda Walsh, Eloisa Klementich, Millie Barajas, Kate Snow, Tricia Bosco, Stephanie Rubenstein, Rebecca Keller, Ali Gosende, Melinda Grow, Gayle Murray, Trista Pandeleos, Miriam Fisk, Theresa Ratermann, Stacy Lovitt, Rachel Riely, Lauren Brandy, Shelly Wickwire (SW), Susan Rivera

I. Welcome

- ◆ Tricia Bosco called the meeting to order at 7:08.
- ◆ Went around the room and made introductions

II. Approvals

Meeting Minutes- Susan Rivera read minutes from last meeting (October 5, 2009). Eloisa Klementich made a motion to ratify February's minutes and Melinda Grow seconded. Motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report

- \$500 matching grant from gardening coordinator
- Gayle Murray submitted treasurer's report. Stephanie Rubenstein moved to approve treasurers report, Melinda Grow seconded. Motion passed

III. New Business

Miriam Fisk spoke on behalf of the Blue and White foundation for fundraising for DHS stadium.

- Goal: 1.5 million, have raised \$800,000.00.
- Opportunities to purchase bricks (\$100—goes to \$150) and pavers (\$300, \$400 after Nov 15).

Theresa Ratermann spoke about the yearbook. 14 students working on it. Need to sell 175 books and have sold 18. Lifetouch wants a deposit.

Charging \$20 (goes up to \$25 after Jan 15) cost of production is \$19.21. Can (through various methods) bring charge down to ~ \$11.50.

Potential ways to bring costs down:

- Sponsoring pages (e.g., families)
- Business advertising
- Pub Displays of Affection for 6th graders (\$10 charge)?

Q: is there a problem with offering this if it is something that all children can't afford?... General agreement that this was ok to do

because this is a “want” and not a “need” for students, and because it will facilitate bringing costs down so that more children can afford them.

- For 6th graders that can’t afford them, will offer them a book at a nominal charge so that the kids will value them (\$5?)
- Ok for pages to be sponsored by businesses? → Theresa will *not* approach businesses unless it looks like we’re in danger not to sell enough, and if it comes to that will check back so that this process can be reviewed.
- Gayle will make an advance from PTA funds to cover the costs of deposit—to be repaid

IV. **Member Reports**

Principal (Shelly Wickwire)

- Shelly thanked PTA for contributions to **beautification**
- Myoporium (nice ground cover, white flowers) will be planted in the center strip inside the parking lot—will take care of weed problem
- Candidates for remaining beautification funds:
 - Kinder mural
 - More shade... still a high priority, will continue to add piecemeal improvements... including, perhaps, a shade structure over sand box
- **Program Improvement:**
 - Working with site council and ELAC on site plan, must be revised by end of December. Will be online in January.
 - Shelly believes that overall this will not threaten our current offerings, but will strengthen them/ help us understand where improvements are needed
- New online gradebook tool (Zangle)
 - Harder to use at the lower grades that have a less standard grading format
- Hammand coming to MME tomorrow to talk about budget impact... article in Enterprise about losing some staff. More layoffs are planned.
 - May mean some reassignments of lower-grade teachers to upper grades
- **Kate Snow** talked about TAG (targeted assistance group). Although the district has had a commitment to narrowing the achievement gap, the gap has not changed over time.
 - TAG charged with going back to stake holder groups (in our case, PTA, site council, etc.) to ask for “support” and buy-in for whatever plan is put into place to try to close this achievement gap (goal: close gap by 2020!)

Teachers (Trista Pandeleos)

- ◆ Asked teachers about cultural storytelling for the arts... Teachers liked some parts of it... liked Rene most—wanted some kind of public art to come out of it.
 - Concerned about the cost and enthusiasm went down when they heard how expensive it is
- ◆ Asked teachers about music and fine arts... they wanted to have an idea of how much there was to spend to be able to search for programs within that price level
- ◆ Ideas for potential *annual* “grade level” programs (also would find it useful to have a “price point” for this):
 - K-1: Explorit program Astronomy unit (sleepover in the quad in tents at the end of the unit) ~\$1350
 - 3rd grade: Apple Valley
 - 6th grade: Walker Creek

VP Communications-(Tracie Bezerra not here, gave Tricia a report)

- ◆ 444 people now on our listserve
- ◆ 80 or so people on the PTA listserve (have 92 paid PTA members)

VP Community Events-(Ali Gosende)

- ◆ 6:30pm: International Book Fair “Read Around the World”—Nov 18th
 - Dance troupe coming from art center will do dances from around the world
- ◆ Gift Mart (Nov 14) 10-5pm: 19 great vendors lined up
 - Needs volunteers to pass out flyers

VP Fundraising (Amanda Walsh)

- ◆ Innisbrook ... Cookie dough must be delivered in a refrigerated truck, so it didn’t come with wrapping paper... will come this Thursday (no school on Friday, so Amanda wants to get the word out that it must be picked up)
- ◆ Jump-a-thon Fundraiser (Feb 1st)—Jan 15th is the kickoff. (Jump rope competition.)
 - Like the Mustang Run
- ◆ Save a gallon—each of our teachers is on it
 - Any transportation alternative to driving solo with your child in your car... saveagallon.org → DJUSD → MME → log miles
 - Giving away two prizes every month

Auction (Charla, Amy not here...Amanda Walsh gave update):

- Feb. 6th—earlier this year. Especially need people to ask for donations
- Charla looking for people to solicit donations

Book Fair (Rebecca Keller)

- Note: starting on Thursday this year
- \$25 will go to each teacher, up to \$500 for reading room

- For teachers who don't use their \$25, it will go to the library and the reading room

Hospitality (Tricia Bosco): No person has come forward to take over as chair... Tricia asked teachers what they would most like... answers were quite varied. Tricia proposes: Coffee every morning, lunch (start at 11:30) for every day of the week (4 volunteers per day—foreman for each day).

V. Unfinished Business:

Amy Teaford (re: request for classroom collections made last PTA meeting) went through Scholastic catalog—those books don't really meet her needs, but she will still look at the book fair. What she isn't able to fund from book fair, the PTA will pay for the rest.

VI. Adjournment- Tricia Bosco adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Rivera