

KENT GARDENS PTA MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2011

(Approved)

Welcome

Rich Sargent, President, opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. (Approximately 33 people were present.)

Old business and approval of last meeting's minutes:

Approval of May meeting minutes

A motion was made and seconded and passed to approve the May 2011 PTA minutes.

Principal's Report

Dr. Hooker, Principal, introduced the teachers present and deferred her time to three speakers. At the end of the meeting, she invited parents to attend Constitution Day.

Salima Jiwa presented on the new "Power in Me" after school academy. Salima Jiwa provided an overview The Power In Me and provided an outline of the initial class. She provided a handout to the parents on the program. The parents asked that future sessions be offered on different days of the week.

Jean Micheal Romain presented on the new Math program, and outlined the new pacing guide. He explained that all children will have access to advanced mathematics starting in Kindergarten. The teachers were trained over the last 6 months on how to bring in advanced math as well as methods of differentiation for classrooms where different levels of students are present. Kent Gardens will be adding Math Counts and Math Labs. Romain presented how each grade will be receiving this program. Parents asked if there were differences between how the French immersion program sees Math levels presented versus the same students in non-immersion. Romain stated all students will have access to the complete curriculum based on their level.

Engineering at Kent Gardens-Marie Hinton and Jay Crowell presented data from the parent survey on the new STEM program. The data showed parents thought the engineering program were engaged and interested in the activities, field trips and content provided in the 2010-2011 program. Hinton described the teacher training that occurred over the summer at the Carderock Elementary Institute. She also went through the grade level units that will be offered. Mr. Crowell talked about the training opportunities with the American Institute of Architects.

Treasurer's Report

Monthly financial review

Shella Holmes, Treasurer, provided an overview of the current finances and talked about how the Summer academies, comparing to the registration (collected in the previous fiscal year) versus the expenses accrued in this fiscal year.

Committee Reports

Fundraising

Heather Tuttle, Vice President (Fundraising), presented a general overview of the various fundraising efforts the PTA does to support of the students and teachers, mentioned FLES forms filled out are incorrect and replacements will be sent out in Friday folder.

Events

Mariasol Herrera –Garcia provided a brief overview of upcoming events including Teacher and Staff appreciation luncheon, and the ice cream social for new families.

Legislative update

Rich Sargent talked about this year being an election year and the election will include school board members. He committed to reaching out to candidates to attend the next meeting.

President's Report

Rich Sargent talked about the PTA's new vendor for the directory. This directory comes at no cost to the PTA, described the advertisement space available, and talked about the online and mobile applications that will be available. He informed the members of the ability to control your information contained in the listing, and said a document with the directory information will be sent through the Friday folder along with a method to opt out of the directory if desired. Each household will be able to update their own information on the web application. He described the security of the site and said the site has reduced the workload involved by school staff. In addition, Sargent reported that the PTA will transition to Constant Contact in the coming weeks to improve communications.

New Business

None

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. Adjournment was at 8:25 pm.

Upcoming Events:

- Staff Appreciation Lunch 9/26
- After School Academies begin 9/26
- Kindergarten Parent Coffee 10/4