

KENT GARDENS PTA MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2011

I. Welcome

Erika Keough, President, opened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

II. Old business and approval of last meeting's minutes

A. Approval of March meeting minutes

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

III. Month in Review

Erika Keough spoke regarding the past months activities, including: visit from Janie Strauss; March Madness; author visit; field trips for 1st, 4th, and 5th grades); and the book fair.

IV. Principal's Report

Dr. Hooker, Principal, spoke regarding a couple issues, including: Janie Strauss and budget issues and auction update (to be given by auction committee members).

V. Treasurer's Report

A. Monthly financial review

Anne-Marie Walker, Treasurer, presented regarding:

(1) winter academies; (2) registration for spring academies almost complete (some classes cancelled due to low registration); (3) after school hoops; (4) armchair (met goal: 17,300); (4) book fair (on target more or less - 2K goal); (5) chess club (paid chess master for fall club; taken in receipts for Spring (won't have final report til end of June); (6) receipts (some money from Amazon); (7) March Madness (met goal of 8K despite lower ticket sales); (8) vacation academies starting next week (trial run); (9) summer camp (registration began April 1; currently ½ to goal); (10) class room materials (paid); (11) field trips; (12) refreshments for Engineering Week visitors (hospitality).

VI. Committee Reports

A. Fundraising (Armchair, Book Fair, March Madness, Auction)

Orchid Rushenas, Vice President (Fundraising), deferred to Heather Tuttle, who presented regarding the auction: preparations are going fine; a Redskin will be there; Peggy Fox will be mistress of ceremonies; website has samples of what is already in (spa baskets; Disney tickets); credit cards will be accepted at event.

B. Events (FFN, Spring and Summer camp)

Mariasol Herrera-Garcia, Vice President (Events), presented regarding: (1) vacation camps moving along with aftercare; family fun night on April 29th at Jason's Deli.

C. Legislative update

Chris LeMenestrel presented regarding county legislative issues, including (approximately): New news: Board Of Supervisors' (BOS) budget was voted on. It was in line with what was projected – property tax rate is at 1.07 (2 cent decrease). This is a little disappointing for school advocates because will result in decrease of revenue of 38m, a large portion of which could have gone to schools. School board has said did get a bit of additional money from state which may yield small increase to teachers/staff. This budget update means there are not going to be any huge program cuts in upcoming year but it is problematic because less money in the future as student population grows. Regarding full day kindergarten: BOS doesn't get to decide where specific money goes. However, BOS did include in their budget money that goes to school outside of general transfer and gave School Board (SB) right to use that money for full day Kindergarten (1.1 m). So, if SB can find 6M, full day KG is likely to happen except for logistical issues with the short timeline (not a done deal). April 26 meeting – final budget adoption meeting but everything already decided.

Presentation was followed by question to Dr. Hooker regarding implementation of full day KG: Dr. Hooker stated that the school has already had site visits to investigate/prepare for full day KG if it happens

VII. New Business

A. Slate of PTA officers for 2011-2012

Diana Kost presented regarding executive board and committee chair positions.

Regarding Executive Board (The following individuals will be voted on in next PTA meeting):

President -- Richard Sargent

VP Events – Mariasol Herrera –Garcia

VP Fundraising – Heather Tuttle

Treasurer – Shella Holmes

Secretary – Stacey Brooks

Regarding Chair Positions for next year:

Did delete some positions (auction, sally foster, after school hoops, entertainment books)

Renamed some (yielding: Grounds & Gardens; Hospitality and Parent Networking; STEM Communications Liason; Fun Fete (re-added); Spelling Bee)

Reviewed filled and unfilled positions. Notable unfilled positions include: chess club; french videos; pta membership; march madness; 6th grade farewell (should be 5th grade parents); and finance committee. Contact: Diana Kost for details and/or if you want to volunteer.

Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept slate of officers.

B. 2011-2012 budget

Rich Sargent reviewed budget for next year.

- PTA had significant balance at beginning of last school year (30K on new computers with help from tech committee)
- This year's budget was very aggressive this year because of STEM funding. Agreed to raise 20K more. Also, took 20K from reserves and put toward STEM.
- This year has been difficult for fundraising. Probably haven't made all targets. Having said that, have approx. 50K in reserves as safety net.
- In determining budget for next year, focused on some things really don't want to lose (PTA funds field trips, for example). Some notable things: Will reduce contribution to STEM next year because this year's large contribution was seed money. Banking and accounting (5K), this money is for audit and taxes. Armchair fundraiser has a 20,500 goal (\$15/month per family is goal). Grocery Receipts (3K). Even though high performing school, SOL remediation donation also in budget. Updated version will be on website soon.

Q and A session re budget followed.

Erika Keogh took questions regarding new business –

Question from parent: Can we have future meeting re curriculum being used in classrooms (explanation). Reason is that compared to other elementary schools in area (seems like other schools have more advanced curriculum). Everyday math is problematic.

Dr. Hooker and teachers responded: textbooks are set by county but then school selects supplementary materials and school has math council to select items. Teachers at Kent Gardens use Everyday Math but then supplement for best fit given students/classroom needs. Also, have investigated what was going on at other schools – using same/similar materials.

Rich Sargent: Agreed will find time when curriculum setters at school will host forum for parents.

Dr. Hooker: offered math curriculum walkthrough/coffee in the future for parents.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. Adjournment was at 8:36 pm.

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, May 7th, Spring Auction