

KENT GARDENS PTA MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2010

Approved

I. Welcome

Erika Keough, President, opened the meeting at 7:08 pm.

II. Presentation from Kent Gardens Leadership team on STEM update

Dr Hooker introduced the faculty and purpose of presentation.

First, one teacher spoke regarding: (1) Phase 1 STEM unit (engineering experience for each grade level) and Phase 2 STEM unit (after Spring Break); (2) engineering week – Feb 22nd through Feb 25th --(kids will be able to work with engineers).

Second, the first grade teachers presented on behalf of first grade. The presenters utilized the “engineering in motion” project (pin pall game creation and beaver damn creation projects, for example) and a picture presentation based there upon to illustrate the way in which engineering is being integrated into the curriculum. The way in which “Think Tank” time is being used for engineering projects was also explained (catapult project creation was an example). The teachers also explained future projects in the coming year.

Third, Marie Hinton spoke and gave the Engineering Council Update. She directed the group to: (1) the engineering design process website (email her to be enrolled on the website); (2) the STEMulator, a newsletter regarding the engineering program at Kent Gardens, and its availability on the website; (3) Parent’s Corner on website; (4) engineering week (“Imagineering” is the overarching theme); (5) various volunteers/partnerships to further the STEM integration at school.

III. Presentation from Dranesville Supervisor, John Faust

Erika Keough introduced Mr. Foust. Mr. Foust first spoke about Westmoreland pedestrian safety issues (difficulty crossing the road safely). He explained the package of proposed improvements, including improvements at intersection at Chain Bridge

road (not funded); Westmoreland/Dillon area where there is no side walk (funded); Haycock right hand turn lane and sidewalks (funded but must integrate with school projects); Mclean High School area median/island pedestrian crossing; Old Chesterbrook median/island and cross walk but there might be a light put in; Haycock/Temple/Taiwanese church area sidewalk improvements; Rosemont intersection improvements; and a few other improvements. A question and answer session/discussion ensued.

Mr. Foust then spoke regarding the budget situation. He explained that the situation is a bit better than last year. A rough summary of his comments follows (**please do not take the following statements as authoritative as to Mr. Foust's official position as they constitute rough notes only**): The Board of Supervisors recently met with county executive who makes budget recommendations. The bad news is that there is a significant deficit but it is less than the one that had to be addressed the last 3 years. However, there is approximately a 2.4% revenue increase this year (assuming the BOS does not change the residential real estate tax rate). Re county disbursement side: cut positions, reduced program expenditures, but some costs (approx. 65 m \$\$ increase) are a given (county fully funds retirement, for example, and health care costs are increasing). In sum, there is a projected 54 million deficiency if no raises to county employees (for third year in row). If raises are given, then the projected deficiency would be increased by approx. 34 million dollars. A question and answer session/discussion ensued.

Mr. Foust also announced the following schedule:

After advertised budget comes out, Mr. Foust will conduct town hall meetings.

Otherwise the schedule is as follows:

Feb 3 – Advertised budget from Jack Dale and School Board

Feb 22 – County announces proposed budget

March 8 – tax rate advertised

March 29-31 – public hearings at government center

April 12 – BOS does mark up (finalization of budget pre approval)

April 28 – official approval of budget and announcement of transfer to schools

May 26 – schools will finalize their budget

IV. Old business and approval of last meeting's minutes:

A. Approval of last month's minutes

A motion was made and seconded and approved to accept the last PTA meeting notes (November 9, 2010).

V. Principal's Report

N/A

VI. Treasurer's Report

Anne-Marie Walker, Treasurer, presented regarding: online registration for winter academies; chess club (chess master has been paid and there is a surplus until expenses during second semester); family fun night (chicken out –\$ 168 check); international night (came in under budget at \$900); dues (have been paid – have 432 members and 67 staff members – will pay again in March and June).

VII. Committee Reports

A. Fundraising (Armchair, Membership, Entertainment Books, S1Art, Sally Foster, Auction)

Orchid Rushenas, Vice President (Fundraising), presented regarding: arm chair fundraiser (on par with same time as last year – letters will go out to noncontributing parents in Jan); membership; entertainment books (almost \$5,000); Square 1 art (approx. \$4700 - good number); Sally foster (a bit under this year – made \$600 so far); May 7th auction (will profit the STEM program – brochures to businesses and parents in January).

B. Events

Family fun night coming up.

VIII. New Business

Stacey Brooks spoke regarding special education, including: (1) behavioral issues intervention specialists and workshops; (2) training availability; (3) budget issues.

Safe Community Coalition announcement – January 11, 2011 - will be screening “A Race to Nowhere” (re: pressures put on kids with schedules, sports, instruments, etc) – NOT kid appropriate

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. Adjournment was at 8:52 pm.