

KENT GARDENS PTA MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2011

I. Welcome

Erika Keough, President, opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. (Approximately 33 individuals were present.)

II. Presentation from Kent Gardens Staff on school testing

- a. The first presenter detailed different tests given to students and types of questions on the same:
 - i. NNAT and CogAt tests (all students have on file)
 - ii. DRA (reading test)
 - iii. WIDA ACCESS (English Language Learners in K-6 – must take to exit ESOL program)
 - iv. IOWA Algebra Aptitude Test
 - v. SOLs (tests given per grade levels 3-6)
- b. A question and answer session followed. (Many of the questions had to do with reading program/support in early grades, especially for those students having trouble meeting benchmarks.)

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

a. Approval of December meeting minutes

A motion was made and seconded and passed to approve the December 2010 PTA minutes.

IV. Month in Review

Erika Keough mentioned: (1) author visit; (2) 6th grade trip to museum; (3) 5th grade naturalist trip; (4) PTA movie night. Some field trips were postponed and are being rescheduled.

V. Principal's Report

Dr. Hooker, Principal, spoke regarding a few issues, including:

(1) Thanking the group for comments, including those related to reading support/improvements at Kent Gardens;

(2) Engineering Update (Dr. Hooker introduced Ms. Hinton who mentioned: Feb 13 – field trip re GEM (girls in engineering) program; Feb 15 Open House for businesses; engineering week (week of Feb 20th); and Feb 19 field trip to National Building Museum Family Day); and Feb 24 – Introduce girl to engineering day); and

(3) SOL remediation club – every Tuesday and Thursday and possibly Saturdays (if enough register).

VI. Treasurer's Report

Anne-Marie Walker, Treasurer, presented regarding: (1) desire that parents use online registration method for paying for upcoming camps; (2) Amazon Sales (\$64.57 gained already); and (3) distributed \$400 to staff.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Fundraising

Orchid Rushenas, Vice President (Fundraising), presented regarding: (1) armchair fundraiser doing well; (2) book fairs (French currently and Spring a bit later); (3) March Madness (all on track for this event – looking for BB players); and (4) Auction to benefit Stem program.

b. Events

Mariasol Herrera-Garcia, Vice President (Events), presented regarding Spring Camp during week of Spring Break (Chess club and Hoop club).

c. Legislative Update

Chris LeMenestrel presented regarding county legislative issues, including:

- (1) School budget request to county – main issue is that have asked for teacher salary increase (note: all the “cut” items last year as well as additional fees remain in this year’s school budget); and FLES-termination amendment was voted down;
- (2) County budget – note: property taxes are going up; sales tax increases; money from state increasing; only thing not increasing is commercial property revenue; and
 - a. Only small likelihood that we will hear about cuts this year (like last year). However, teacher compensation is a huge issue this year. Issue is whether there will be enough money given to fund teacher compensation increases.
- (3) Budget Hearings. Speakers welcome to sign up.

Luke Lavasseur presented regarding State legislative issues, including:

- (1) PTA VA lobbying day – last week
 - a. unclear whether will get more money for education;
 - b. calendar issue – VA PTA wants counties to be able to decide when to schedule school (this legislation is dead);

- c. VRS funding – underfunded for a number of years; this is not the year additional funding will come through;
- d. Homeschooling community want kids to be able to participate in public school activities – VA PTA is strongly against this because displaces public school students.

A question and answer session ensued.

VIII. New Business

a. Introduction of Nominating Committee

Erika K. briefly explained process (including Nominating Committee: Chip Harlow; Diana Kost; Heather Tuttle). Official vote for nominating committee will occur next meeting.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. Adjournment was at

Upcoming Events

- **Friday, March 11, KG Spelling Bee**
- **Tuesday, March 15, Ann Dolin Presentation at Lemon Road ES**
- **Friday, March 18, March Madness**
- **Saturday, May 7th, Spring Auction**