

# KENT GARDENS PTA MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2011

## I. Welcome

Erika Keough, President, opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. (Approximately 45 individuals were present.)

## II. Presentation from Kent Gardens Staff on Part 2 of School Testing Presentation-the test scores and what do they mean?

Ms. Gavin, with Ms. Hinton's assistance, presented regarding test scores and what they mean. (This was the second half of the testing presentation that was first introduced during the Feb. 2011 PTA meeting.) A link to the presentation is available at: [please contact Ms. Gavin for assistance].

A question and answer session followed. A major focus of the presentation and questions was reading instruction for Kent Gardens children. The presentation also included video clips of: (1) one teacher (Mr. Brock) conducting lessons (reading comprehension) in the classroom and (2) another teacher (Ms. Wagoner) present regarding how a parent can help his or her child choose the "just right" book for him/her at home. (These and other video clips are available on Blackboard.)

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

### A. Approval of February meeting minutes

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

## IV. Month in Review

Erika Keough mentioned events during the past month: (1) engineering week (visit by astronaut, other engineers, etc.); (2) SOL remediation; (3) several field trips (building museum trips, ethics day for 6<sup>th</sup> graders); (4) summer camp registration began; and (5) KG child won reflections contest at Virginia level.

## V. Principal's Report

Dr. Hooker, Principal, spoke regarding a few issues, including: (1) the introduction of French interns who are currently visiting Kent Gardens (interns are students from Masters program in France and each introduced him/herself and the classroom in which he/she is assisting); (2) the introduction of a: quarterly report on STEM program activities (given by Ms. Weiner) and the presentation of student regarding: (1) software that he found on the internet (3D game making) and that he then used to teach himself several computer programming skills and to make several models of space, the universe etc.; and (2) his proposal that the school acquire this software (unity) for use by all students.

## **VI. Treasurer's Report**

### **A. Month and Mid year financial review**

Anne-Marie Walker, Treasurer, presented regarding: (1) explanation of how PTA manages money (accrual basis of accounting; fiscal year starts July 1; Quickbooks accounting software; for tax purposes PTA is 501C3 tax exempt nonprofit; not required to audit but we are by independent firm; maintain a checking account and money market account with Bank; also have online account with paypal; use online payment methods for activities/programs; many programs run throughout whole school year so pay bills up to June 30; summer academies crosses two fiscal years and so numbers for summer academies always seem off; auction is for STEM support; etc.) (2) explanation of profit and loss sheet (income, expenses, budget, etc); (3) review of certain income items (book fair; French video club (2 new computers just bought); grocery receipts (Amazon is new); vacation academies) and expense items (author visits; interns and related expenses; spelling bee; staff professional growth; STEM support; teacher funds; technology; and technology support (cartridges, laptops, boombox, digital cameras, etc).

Rich Sargent, Finance Committee President, explained regarding STEM seed money for materials, trainings for all teachers, and related items for getting STEM off the ground.

There was a question regarding the March Madness fundraising goal. Answer: March Madness used to be earmarked for Smart Boards (technology) but now March Madness fundraised money goes into general pool.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

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

Orchid Rushenas, Vice President (Fundraising), presented regarding: (1) armchair fundraiser (exceeded our goal by 500\$ so far); (2) March Madness (prep going well; please purchase tickets on paypal or tickets going on sale in the morning next week; can purchase t-shirts); (3) book fair coming up (including 2 nights open); and (4) auction coming up (invitations going out next week; every class will put together class project for auction; still looking for donations for auction).

### **B. Events (FFN, Spring and Summer camp)**

Mariasol Herrera-Garcia, Vice President (Events), presented regarding: (1) Family Fun Night to celebrate French interns (board games and Matilda in French with English subtitles this Friday); and (2) Spring Camp sign up is open (Hoops and Chess camps and both with extended care).

### **C. Legislative update**

Chris LeMenestrel presented regarding county legislative issues, including: (1) brief budget update (outlook for county budget is pretty good but not great news for schools because the transfer is flat (same as last year despite increasing needs in schools); 30 mill. surplus (but it is up to FFX county supervisors what to do with it (tax cut; give to

schools; keep in reserve)); (2) two important meetings (first, next Tues Janie Strauss from School Board will be here and, second, March 23 town hall meeting for county supervisor John Faust at Mclean Community Center); (3) Full Day Kindergarten issue (there is a goal to roll out full day KG at all schools next year but there is no money in budget for it and there is a proposal for schools to make it happen by moving money and teachers around).

## **VIII. New Business**

Vote on Nominating Committee (Chip Harlow; Diana Kost; Heather Tuttle).

A motion was made and seconded and passed to approve nominating committee.

## **IX. Adjournment**

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, French Family Fun Night, Gym, 7pm
- Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, Ann Dolin Presentation at Lemon Road ES 7pm
- Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, Janie Strauss Town Hall Meeting, KG Cafeteria 7pm
- April 5-8<sup>th</sup>, Spring Book Fair
- Friday, March 18th, March Madness
- Saturday, May 7th, Spring Auction