

KENT GARDENS PTA MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2010

Approved

I. Welcome/Month in Recap

Erika Keough, President, opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Erika Keough introduced herself and the other PTA officers.

A presentation regarding the new Science Technology Engineering and Math (“STEM”) program at Kent Gardens, with a focus on the engineering component, was given. [This presentation was originally scheduled for later in the evening. See summary of content below.]

Erika Keough provided a recap of beginning of the school year efforts by parents, teachers, and students.

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

There was no need to discuss old business or approve prior minutes given that this was the first meeting of the year.

III. Principal’s Report

Dr. Hooker, Principal, spoke to several issues, including: (1) phone calls from teachers; (2) back-to-school night; (3) PTA efforts during first week of school; (4) new faculty members; (5) close to 900 students; (6) coffee dates; (7) upcoming KG parent meetings; (8) additional parent meetings (Oct 5, Oct 14, Oct 20); (9) Oct 6 ice cream social; (10) staff development and training efforts (re STEM/engineering) over the summer; (11) Sept 25 (second engineering training for teachers).

Ms. Gavin, Assistant Principal, spoke to several issues, including: (1) large school issues, including safety, and view that these were handled well at beginning of year; (2) engineering integration and school/student readiness; (3) focus on and training regarding social and emotional development of children: responsive classroom and community building behavior concepts; (4) reflection time at end of each school day; (5) coffee dates; (6) need for consumable materials for engineering focus activities and request for donations.

Dr. Hooker s spoke regarding: (1) Constitution Day (September 17, 2010) and (2) introduction of PTA teacher representatives.

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Anne-Marie Walker, Treasurer, presented regarding: (1) annual auditors report, including summaries of five tests of disbursements.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the auditor’s report.

Anne-Marie Walker provided a review of budget line items, including summer camps, auction, and STEM seed money.

V. Committee Reports

a. Fundraising (Armchair, Membership, Entertainment Books)

Orchid Rushenas, Vice-President (Fundraising), presented regarding: (1) arm chair donations (still seeking additional donations); (2) membership (good teacher membership; increased parent membership sought); and (3) entertainment books (30\$ each – October 1 – 15 is sale period); need 9 volunteers for help on Sept 29 (8:30 – 11:30 to help with assembling books)

b. Events (Teacher App. Lunch, Reflections, FFN)

Mariasol Herrera-Garcia, Vice-President (Events), presented regarding: (1) Oct 6 Ice Cream Social; (2) Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (need donations, money, and volunteers) – see Event Brite to register; (3) After School Academies (please participate – good for students and revenue generator)

Erika Keough mentioned: (1) reflections competition – See Friday Folder or website for information; (2) Family Fun Night – once a month ; (3) New PTA Website and RSS Feeds.

VI. New Business

a. Longfellow PTA meeting – cell phone towers discussion, September 27th, 7pm

Erika Keough spoke regarding possible installation of cell phone tower on Longfellow campus and fact that this issue will be addressed at next Longfellow PTA meeting. Group discussion of issue ensued.

Erika Keough spoke regarding possible childcare during future PTA meetings, a move that would be designed to increase parent attendance.

b. Engineering as part of STEM presentation [Note: presentation - occurred at beginning of meeting]

Several individuals provided presentation regarding STEM integration and, in particular, the engineering component of the program at Kent Gardens. Powerpoint presentation was provided by Andrea Jones, Jo Weiner, Patricia Root, Marie Hinton.

The parent-teacher group completed a sample activity “Your chance to be an Engineer”

There was a Question & Answer session regarding integration of engineering and math and cooperative aspect of problem solving into curriculum.

VII. Adjournment

Adjournment was at 8:40 pm.