

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

President Liz Rizzo, Treasurer Karen Schifferdecker, Secretary Jennifer DUBY, Principal Justin Benna, Dick Crate, Penny May

CALL TO ORDER

President Rizzo called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Secretary's report. Minutes were reviewed. Justin Benna motioned to accept. Karen Schifferdecker seconded. Voted to approve.

Treasurer's report. Karen Schifferdecker reviewed figures. Looks like we have more than we really do b/c the money to Meadow Farms hasn't been paid yet. But taking that into consideration, we are doing well. Karen pointed out that Hoot should be sure to mention when PTA pays for things. Penny May made motion to accept. Justin Benna seconded. Voted to approve.

Principal's report: Life at EVS continues to be good. Teachers are going strong. Kids are buckled down and focused, which can be difficult at this time of year.

Letter went home describing new security system that will be going in soon. Asking for everybody's patience as the inevitable bugs in the system are worked out.

Early Release coming up next Tues. Teachers will be learning about Singapore math program. Ros Seidel and Nancy Murphy will be leading that. Discussion of Math curriculum in district. Discussion of what the PTA can do to help improve math scores in school. Penny May mentioned Free Rice math practice website. Dick Crate pointed out some suggestions, e.g. hiring tutors, helping more groups of kids. Pres Rizzo asked if NECAP prep helped. Benna said scores would come in Jan, but that his guess was that it did. Penny pointed out the homework club, promote that more, or have specialized homework clubs. Karen asked what other schools may have done, if there's anything written up. Pointed out that sometimes extra time on something isn't helpful, e.g., if a child has reached their limit on something. Rizzo suggested sponsoring breakfasts prior to testing to ensure that kids are well fed. Karen suggested addressing the letter that went home and put out extra info to parents to help understanding. Justin suggested touching base with Nancy Murphy, also ask her to next PTA meeting.

Jen Seiler unable to attend, but asked (thru Rizzo) that any announcements be directed to her to include on website.

Membership report. Amanda Charbono unable to attend, but President Rizzo gave update. We are at 117 members.

Fundraising update. Babben Kulbacki unable to attend. President Rizzo asked for input on whether we should do spring fundraiser. Discussion of what we did last year: Otis Spunkmeyer. No desire to repeat. Justin asked if we need to raise money. Karen said we do need to raise money. Penny suggested thinking about doing something really different, e.g. backyard carnival -- something participatory, rather than shopping. Rizzo threw out school wide yard sale. Penny suggested combining the two ideas. All the money goes straight to PTA. Karen had another idea: a race/walk/bike of some kind. Justin suggested selling t-shirts. Dick pointed out question of insurance for a race. Rizzo said should be pretty easy to get temp rider for such an event.

Before and After School programs. President Rizzo said no updates from Sarah at this point.

NEW BUSINESS

Ball in the House. A capella group that comes to teach, singing, incl beatboxing. Education-based Assembly Program, plus workshop, plus Family Night Concert. Justin asked how much. Liz wasn't sure, asked if Artist in Residence was possibility. Dick asked what the kids would learn.

Reflections program. Arts-based program run by national PTA. Kids at different grade levels compete in different arts -- writing, video, visual arts etc. Each year has a theme. Very time intensive program. Liz went to workshop at PTA conference and described program.

Liz said Babben attended workshop about how to cultivate membership. Liz said looking for ways to encourage people to join and help out more, join board etc. E.g., who will be the next group of parents to come on board.

Feb 1, Tuesday. Community Building. Booked for PTA workshop for parents. Possibly on Internet safety, or sexual abuse awareness. Light refreshments served, will ask Sarah to get volunteers to bake. PTA will provide drinks. Dick talked about these issues, as well as alcohol/drug abuse. Talked about importance of getting parents of EVS-aged kids informed about these issues. Recommended started with something accessible, less stressful. Title: Children and Internet Safety. Sponsored by the EVS PTA, but open to the District. Question of child care.

Karen asked when we could do meeting on curriculum. Depends on Nancy Murphy's schedule. The hope was that we could do it Jan, or maybe wait to Feb in hopes of having NECAP scores back.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Penny moved to adjourn the meeting.
Jen seconded the motion.
President Rizzo adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.