

TES PTA General Membership Meeting

November 5, 2012

I Call to Order: 7pm

II Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve September 20th General Meeting minutes made and passed. Motion to approve October 1 PTA Board meeting minutes was made and passed.

III Report of Officers

Principal's Report (Mr. Gordon):

Mr Gordon thanked all for their service on Family Night- he enjoyed helping. He also appreciated SEATS work this month.

Mr. Gordon highlighted the School Messenger message about safety in the horseshoe area while picking up and dropping off children. Mr. Gordon explained (in response to questions) that the concern is that cars are passing the pickup lines on Lindsay. He requests that parents not do this, and stated that the police said this is illegal.

Mr. Gordon reminded us that the Veteran's Assembly is on Friday, and that next week on the evening of November 13th, Mrs. Patterson will lead a presentation for parents on balanced assessment. Mr. Gordon recommends attending the meeting to learn about the approach the school is taking in light of the SOL waiver. There will be breakouts for older and younger grades.

Also, around November 19th Mrs. Patterson will be reaching out to the parents to ask for feedback about on-line registration for Parent teacher conferences.

Mr. Gordon asked if the attendees had any safety concerns. One parent mentioned that she had seen a child chase a ball off the playground into the street. Mr. Gordon will look into this. Other concerns were discussed in regard to crosswalks and parents crossing Forest Avenue. Mr. Gordon asked parents to be extremely cautious driving on Forest and crossing with children. He also asked that the PTA continue to communicate safety information to the TES community.

Teacher Representative (Mrs. Archer)

Following up on the safety discussion, Mrs. Archer urged parents to use the buses for children's transportation whenever possible, as the lines at the horseshoe are longer than in the past. She also thanked the PTA for hosting the lunch for teachers today. She noted that the teachers had never had four straight hours of conference before and that the food really helped.

Treasurer's Report (Diana Alger via Laura Pleasants)

Laura provided a report from Diana who was absent. Our 990N tax form has been submitted for last budget year. We are still waiting for a few key disbursements (membership, chess club, ASE, Directory) to go out so the balance appears larger than it actually is. Our fall committees have done a super job staying to budget and even making some money where we did not expect to be in the positive (Duathlon, Family Night). We have seen some good results with corporate matching checks, keep spreading the word. Excellent progress on spending the designations (Mobile Studio, Playground and Book Room are all being used.)

Treasurer Elect's Report (Melissa Sanne)

Melissa reported that 418 moms, 282 dads, and 42 teachers joined the PTA this year.

President Elect's Report- (Elaine Peterson) No report.

Corresponding Secretary's Report (Heidi Frenzel reported for Julie Flournoy)

In the past month Julie provided on behalf of the PTA:

- A sympathy card and \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card to a staff member recognizing the loss of her mother,
- A TES tumbler filled with Smarties and note card to visiting author Diane DiSalvo,
- A sympathy note to a TES parent and her family recognizing the loss of a parent,
- For TES Bus Driver Appreciation Week , \$15 7-Eleven gift cards and handwritten notes to 12 bus drivers, and
- in recognition of Boss's Day, a \$50 DSW gift card to Mrs. Patterson and a \$25 iTunes gift card and \$25 Dick's Sporting Goods gift card to Mr. Gordon.

Also, the SEATS team provided recognition/thank you to the most recent visiting author and illustrator.

Parliamentarian (Meg Bryant)

The By-laws Committee will meet this Thursday to work on amendments to the By-laws.

President's Report (Laura Pleasants)

This was our big month with just about all of our fall committees fully ramped up. All of our committees did a great job. Of note, two of our committees that typically get underway in October, journalism and bake sale, are not going to happen this year. The bake sale was cancelled by HCPS at TES and all county schools. Laura was able to reassign Michelle Johnston and Lisa Voeks (bake sale chairs) to the casserole corner during Spring Fling. Journalism is going to take a break this year but may return next year. Mrs. Winn and Mrs. Patterson told Laura that they need to add clarity around the objectives of the journalism club and since we would be transitioning from one set of volunteers to another this was a good time to reexamine it.

Meg Bryant mentioned that for next year it would be nice for the students to see how news is produced. Laura agreed that we need a teacher involved for LOCAL element. There are a couple of vocal parents who are interested in continuing with journalism, so it will likely return.

Next week, Laura will be attending the county PTA presidents meeting with a presentation by Dr. Russo, and will report on what he has to say next month.

IV Committee Reports

Yearlong/Fall Committees

- ASE (Angela Kennedy) The fall session is half way through and it seems to be going smoothly, we are already planning for the winter session and will run classes from Feb 6th to March 14th to avoid the Spring rush of activities. Angela asked that we spread the word that it is difficult to run the program when there are not enough volunteer parents. A comment was made that parents do not realize that they are allowed to have younger siblings with them, so it was suggested that we publicize this.
- Annual Fund –We far exceeded goal and are confident we'll raise the 20,000 we need. About 320 families gave. Someone questioned how much they should give per child. Laura responded that while the PTA budgets about \$60 per child, she wanted to emphasize that parents should give what they can afford and not feel

bound by that number.

- Bake sale- Cancelled as detailed above
- Book Fair-Claire Newton reported via email that the Book Fair raised slightly over \$2000 for the PTA this fall, which means that TES parents purchased nearly \$14,000 worth of books! The PTA Angel Fund also made it possible for 17 children to purchase books at the book fair. Thanks go out to all the volunteers and the book lovers!
- Buildings and Grounds – Heidi Frenzel reported that Clean-up day was a success. Lots of IB students, several TES parents, Mrs. O'Connor and first graders and family, Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Hubbard all helped make it a great success. Now working on Powwow improvements. Matt Logan has agreed to help. Kate Mahan, and Heidi will meet with him in the next week or so.
- Calendar and Directory- Still working on getting the directories out.
- Chess - Continues to go well- remember to send a note if a child is absent from chess and not school.
- Drama -Drama Club is fine. The Directors will begin the process of assigning roles in the next few weeks. The clubs will move their practice to the auditorium in January. One parent mentioned that her child was learning a lot. Another mentioned that she had noticed behavior issues. Mr. Gordon requested that he be informed of any further issues, so that he could resolve.
- Duathlon- Laura Pleasants reported that it was a beautiful day for the Duathlon, we had about 325 participants and lots of new sponsors, so the Duathlon made about \$1,600 this year, better than any previous year. This event, like so many of our October events continues to struggle to get adult volunteers, but we had about 25 middle and high schoolers helping that day.
- Family Night - Family Night was a great success with just under 500 people attending. There was a shortage of volunteers. Mr Gordon, Laura Pleasants and Meg Bryant stepped into help.
- Journalism –see above in President's report
- First Grade Musical- Alfreda Beach reported that the committee is hoping to get volunteer sign ups out soon to parents.
- Holiday Kids Corner- they are working on decorating the entryway and otherwise getting ready for the event.
- Hospitality – provided box lunches today for the teachers, and will provide coffee juice and treats for the veterans and families on Friday.
- Reflections - Doubled the entries this year to 45 and were able to do away with all paperwork. Variety of work was entered, most of which were visual arts and photo.. On line registration is difficult. Three parents will hang the artwork. The list of winners will be published in Signals and reported on the morning announcements.
- Room parents- Communications going well, although parents have expressed frustrations about not having directories. The first teacher treat day went well.
- SEATS – Lisa and Ashley- Diane DiSalvo- GREAT feedback-provided tools to teachers, and then met with kids on Tues and Weds. She wants to come back next year. Expensive but great. Richmond Rocks talked about teamwork in writing book. Bill Pike read The Last Pumpkin. Niki Davidson and Heidi Frenzel will help on SEATS next year. Dan Gutman will be skyping with TES next month. SEATS is also doing the book choice seminar for third graders with Mrs. McCollough.
- Signals -Our last issue before the holidays will be on Dec 3, then we will have a single issue in January on the 14th to launch ASE and any other early signups before getting back on our regular schedule around the middle of February. ASE needs a January issue.
- Science Fair- MR. Gordon and Laura reported that TES is considering a project based fair, likely to be held in April. More info coming soon.
- Square One Art -Square 1 art was shipped back to Square 1 on October 22, 2012. TES will receive order packets to be distributed to students on November 6th and we will get them out to students as quickly as possible. A notice went out

in Signals this week and we will add more specific details to Signals in the next two weeks. All orders will be placed and paid for online and are due by November 16th. Purchased products are due to arrive on or about December 11th for distribution to students.

- Spirit Wear- Mrs. Archer said polka dotted teacher shirts are a hit. Question about on line ordering or at least presentation of the products so working parents can see them. Laura will check with Garnett and Shannon.
- Sally Foster - Orders will be shipped soon. Edibles a little later.
- Volunteers- Committee is working on getting Veteran's Day presentation staffed.

V New Business

Karen reminded those present that if you want something to go out this week by room parents, send it by Thursday night to get out by Friday.

Tuckahoe had a team in the (9 years and up) lego league. If interested- it is open to the public from 9:30-3:30 at Deep run this weekend, Maggie Walker next week. Get the word out to rising 3rd and 4th graders to check it out.

Mr. Gordon reported that Mr. Heesham and his wife had a baby girl last Friday! Erin Ghattas.