

PTA Meeting Minutes September 1, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm

May 5, 2009 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PTA officers for the 2009/2010 school year were introduced. New parents were welcomed and introduced themselves. All committee chairpersons in attendance were introduced.

PTA website (www.gcespta.com) – 1st year in existence. It is up and running. Forms and links are helping with the school's "Going Green" initiative. The website includes links to registration forms and web-based registration for certain after-school activities. It is important to note, however, that based on vendor capabilities, not all activities may be registered via the web. For those activities that cannot be registered via the web, parents should print out the forms and submit them as directed.

PTA Packet – The PTA Packet was sent home with kids on the first day of school. Feedback received during the meeting was positive, with many parents noting that it is a great resource for parents.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer provided a cash activity report that shows cash activity from the end of the 2008 school year to the end of August. This report is posted to the website and will be made available at each meeting. The Treasurer also discussed the fact that an audit was performed during the summer and everything was found to be in order. The audit committee's report was submitted to the PTA Council of Howard. The Treasurer also presented the 2009/2010 proposed budget for approval. A motion was made to approve budget for 2009/2010 year; it was seconded and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership - The PTA is currently running its annual membership drive. A question was asked as to whether membership dues were increased, to which the response was no, they have remained flat. A brief discussion was also held about the percentage of the budget that membership dues represent, as well as the amount of PTA dues the PTA has to remit to the Maryland PTA.

Spiritwear – Can be purchased throughout the year. See www.gcespta.com for forms.

5K Run - Will be held on September 12, 2009 starting at 8:30am. Volunteers and runners are needed. Forms can be accessed from the PTA's website for printing and distribution. Lifetime Fitness will be a sponsor and has posted flyers. Flyers will be posted throughout the Emerson Community. Local police will be available to direct traffic during the run. There will be a table for selling spiritwear. Volunteers can contact Erin Stovel. It is important to note,

this is not a PTA fundraising event, we are partnering with them. This is the schools ONLY fundraising event for the school year.

Sock Hop – The sock hop will be held on October 23, 2009 and Mary Weber, the committee chair, is looking for volunteers.

Bingo Night – Bingo Night will be held on September 25, 2009. Ten volunteers are needed and donations for the gift table are needed too.

Volunteer Committee – Form was included in the PTA packet. This year, tracking of hours and parent volunteers will take place. 3 for Me – Encourage at least three hours of volunteering from as many parents as possible during the school year.

After-School Activities – Currently, there is a total of 7 activities. Two new classes have been added this year – Digital Design Lab and Chess. Supersquads is for Grades 2 – 5. Nikki Lee is looking into new drama activity. Any additional activities throughout the year will depend on the school calendar.

Sally Foster/Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough – Sally Foster has some new products & “green” products. Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough is a new fundraiser for GCES. The sales will run concurrently and begin on September 8, 2009. The sales end on October 2, 2009, and delivery is scheduled for November 4, 2009.

2010 Chick-Fil-A Calendar Sales – New PTA Fall fundraiser. School earns 50%. Cost is \$6.00 per calendar and forms are available on the PTA website. Coupons included in the calendar do not expire.

First Fridays at Chick-Fil-A - starts on October 2nd, please make sure you bring coupons that are included in PTA packet. They are also available to download on the PTA website. Each month, beginning in November, a grade will be selected and the class with the highest sales will win a platter of nuggets.

Yankee Candle – New PTA Spring fundraiser. School receives 40% of sales. A PTA member suggested that the PTA look into Party Light Candles, which provides 50% proceeds to school. To be investigated further.

Flower Power – New PTA Spring fundraiser. Sells flower bulbs, seeds, plants. Starts Feb – Apr. Delivery will be in May.

Kidstuff Coupon Book – Sale will begin in mid October.

Committees without Chairs – Nutrition and Wellness, Restaurant Night, Book Fair and Carnival (Robyn Kim has agreed to co-chair. Planning begins after Jan.)

Nutrition and Wellness – Ice Skating at Ice House – possible fundraiser. Available on Fridays from 7-9pm. Kickball Night is on Thursday, October 1st. Other activities: Get Moving Monday's and Waste Free Wednesdays may become part of the Going Green project chaired by Elisabeth Kirk.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED

Crossing Guard – will be provided by Howard County for school property. There is still a guard at Winter Sun & Skylark. Their responsibilities & duties will be addressed at next Council meeting.

Safety Patrol – Jacque will be discussing with Principal Oduyoye at upcoming meeting.

PTA Bylaws were reviewed and a motion to approve was made, seconded, and approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm