



MINUTES

EMES GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date | time 9/10/2014 7:04 PM | Meeting called to order by Maureen Kirk, President

In Attendance

Mr. Pellegrino, Maureen Kirk, Theresa Dinman, Juana Kazmierczak, Kevin Arcano, Sally Dunleavy, Melissa Rose Player, Stephanie DeWan, Stephanie LaLumiere, Kirsten Shabanowitz, Deirdre Rommelmeyer, Caroline Geidl, Beth Stower, Jane Bannel, Alexis Jordan, Kathy Jackson, Sharon Yarborough, Jamie Stockton, Kate Alars, Brenda Camacho, Lisbeth Immel, Liliana de Castro, Laura Wigglesworth

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed from the May board meeting and approved.

Principal's Report – Michael Pellegrino

Mr. Pellegrino thanked everyone for attending the meeting; the PTA sponsored staff luncheon in August; the supplies in the supply closet.

Mr. Pellegrino presented the Treasurer with an invoice for planners, homework folders and assemblies.

Mr. Pellegrino made a request for PTA financial support for Time for Kids subscription. He also discussed the PTA possibly providing financial support for headphones for students to use during computer assessments.

A motion was made by Sally Dunleavy to use \$1,300 from the flexible funds account to pay for the Time for Kids subscriptions for grades 3-5 and another \$1,300 to be set aside for TBD activities for grades K-2. Second was provided by Kathy Jackson. Measure passed unanimously.

President's Report

Maureen Kirk welcomed all members and noted that she would like to keep our meetings brief. Therefore, we won't be going around the room getting an update from every committee at each meeting. She would also like to ensure that the meetings stay cordial and friendly. She gave a reminder for Committee Chairs to run all plans by the Executive Committee per the PTA by-laws.

Maureen discussed the results of the survey done over the summer. Three groups were surveyed: general membership, teachers, and committee chairs. The results: teachers and committee chairs are happy with the PTA. Only ten percent of the general membership participated in the survey. Some things jumped out: folks want a Halloween event; more "new and exciting" events; and a positive environment. Some would like the PTA to advocate more with the school board.

Maureen outlined the goals for the year. They include:

1. Have a fun, upbeat year with no drama. It's best for the kids and the school.
2. Clear communication.
3. Outreach to the Hispanic community and involve more dads.
4. Online payments for spirit wear, ASEP, running program.

Maureen stated that she would like to dissolve the umbrella committees that were created last year. In reality they just created an added level of bureaucracy with is unnecessary. Kevin Arcano made a motion to dissolve the umbrella committees, Sally Dunleavy provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Juana Kazmierczak, Treasurer, presented the budget for review. Kathy Jackson made a motion to approve the budget; Beth Stowell provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Juana Kazmierczak provided an overview of the reimbursement process. Forms can be found on the PTA section of the school website. Please provide original receipts. She reminded the group that the PTA by-laws require certain actions of the officers and group before approval of items. The intention is not to make more work for our volunteers but to stay within the by-laws.

Report of Standing Committees

Juana Kazmierczak provided an update on the Clothing Swap. The Clothing Swap is set for Saturday, September 20th. Does anyone have large plastic bins they could loan the committee? Volunteers would be welcome every day at 1:30 pm to sort clothes.

Old Business

Outdoor Classroom: Maureen Kirk provided an update on the Outdoor Classroom. Mr. Pellegrino and staff determined that a more scaled back outdoor classroom would be more appropriate for our school. The school does not want to accept grant money that will obligate it in any way. Therefore, some of the unique and interesting elements have been dropped but the classroom is moving forward.

Read-A-Thon: Stephanie DeWan provided an overview of the fall fundraiser, the Read-A-Thon. It is completely online. Kids register and create a personal page. They then send emails to friends and family, who will be urged to donate. A reading session is 20-30 minutes. Teachers will allow kids to count their in-class reading toward the Read-A-Thon. The Read-A-Thon lasts 10 days. Cool Spring ES raised over \$18,000 and we're hoping for equally impressive results.

New Business

Special Projects Committee: Maureen Kirk discussed the creation of a Special Projects or "Grants" Committee to determine what large projects or events are worth funding. Kathy Jackson made a motion to create the committee; Kevin Arcano provided a second. Motion passed unanimously.

Outreach Committee: Sally Dunleavy discussed the following initiatives:

1. Hispanic Community Outreach: She would like to pilot a program of get-togethers in the Hispanic community. Many folks in this demographic don't have cars so the committee would like to hold a get-together at a local neighborhood coffee shop or other venue. Possibilities would be "Ask the Principal" night with Spanish interpreters.

2. Backpack Buddies: volunteers are needed to pack food into the backpacks on Sunday afternoon or Tuesday mornings at St. James Episcopal Church.
3. Volunteer Programs into School: she would like for parents or clubs to bring new organizations into the school to allow kids to volunteer and get involved in helping others. This would be after school. Examples would be the Animal Shelter.

Study Buddy Program: Liliana de Castro stated that more volunteers are needed for the “Study Buddy” tutoring program. Volunteers will be assigned two children to work with every Friday during lunch.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 8 at 9 am in the teacher’s lounge.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.