

Heritage K-8 Charter School Parent Advisory Meeting

October 2, 2008
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The October All-Parents Meeting of the Parent Advisory Board was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Tammy Cummings. Board members present were President Tammy Cummings, Vice-President Marc Lindsey, Secretary Kathryn Turner-Arsenault, Member Jami Baar, and Member Stephanie Boren. Treasurer Andrea Egli and Jacqueline Thompson were not present. Director Palma Holland of Heritage K-8 and Jennifer Cooper of Digital Academy were both present.

Several forms were left on the back table for people to pick up regarding upcoming projects and information. There was also a form asking for comments, complaints, or suggestions regarding the Heritage / Digital Parent Advisory Board and how it can better serve the families of the school. The forms could be anonymous or signed.

Tammy Cummings led the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge, she told those present that the goal of this meeting was to convey, in a concise but accurate way, information about the activities of the Parent Advisory Board and the school.

Board Reports

Tammy announced that Avistatech (parents Marc and Karen Lindsey) have donated fourteen microscopes to the middle school science department. Their children, who are in third and first grades, won't even be able to use the microscopes for several years, but Avistatech believes in the value of learning science.

Tammy Cummings discussed the responses received from PAB's request in the Heritage PAB Newsletter for feedback regarding programs and money expenditures. Four people responded and their concerns included a playground, shade, and field trips. Tammy advised that the school says this is not the time for installing a playground as it is contemplating purchasing additional space, specifically Yum Yum Donuts and the tattoo parlor. If that is done, then there will be more room for a playground than there is now. Tammy listed three places that she has inspected on campus that had potential for being a playground area, but every one of them comes up short in some crucial way such as space or levelness. Tammy also stated that the school does not want to incur the higher insurance cost of a campus with playground equipment.

Tammy advised the meeting that several technology purchases have been made with money earned by the PAB and its fundraising activities, including: 22 desktop computers (one for each classroom), 3 projectors, 1 screen, 1 overhead projector, an annual subscription for interactive programs on the internet, a listening center, book sets, and CD players. Most of these items were purchased with money earmarked from Family Fun Night Auction and e-scrip.

With regard to afterschool clubs, Tammy advised that (1) Velocity no longer is providing an afterschool club because the distance was too great for them to travel *and* only four children signed up for the October program; (2) there may be a possibility of setting up an afterschool Spanish language program, and we are looking for a teacher.

The Fun Academy will not take place in the fall semester. There wasn't enough interest this time around, probably because of all the other activities such as sports that are set in the fall. There will be a Fun Academy in the spring semester, and Tammy asked for volunteers to teach.

Parent Christy Bartlett came to the podium at Tammy's invitation to talk about Original Artworks. She explained about deadlines and cost and that, this year, Original Artworks will not be a fundraiser. She is organizing this project because so many parents indicated that they wanted to continue to be able to buy items with their children's artwork.

As Andrea did not attend the meeting, Tammy talked about the PAB's finances and showed an overhead of the PAB's income from different sources as a percentage of the total income, as well as PAB's expenditures on different items as a percentage of the total expenditures. A copy of that overhead is attached to these Minutes.

Tammy told everyone that parent Lucy Rowe is the chairperson for the Box Tops for Kids and, to date, the school has collected \$600 worth of box tops to send in this semester. It is essential that all box tops submitted have expiration dates on them. Mrs. Keyser has a small "store" in the office where children can choose items in return for box tops. Even though we haven't had any Cartridges 4 Kids contests yet this year, children have been bringing them in already.

Jami talked about the possibility of honoring a child's special achievement with a donation of a book to the library. The book can be donated for a birthday, a home run, or any other event the family chooses.

Jami announced that Cynthia Diaz is the chairperson for the yearbook committee this year and she is looking for photographs taken around school or school activities.

Jami announced that the Book Fair will take place the week of November 11 during lunch time and after school. Claudine Rumbawa is the chair and there will be a safari theme. Jami asked for volunteers to help make the Book Fair run smoothly.

Stephanie talked about the first Family Movie Night, which is to take place on Friday, October 3, 2008, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All families can bring a picnic lunch and set their chairs up on the playground to watch the 1959 version of "Journey to the Center of the Earth," starring Pat Boone, who sings. The movie is rated "G." Entrance is free but the PAB is requesting donations of food for the Interfaith Crisis Center.

Stephanie discussed Family Fun Night, which is set for the first Saturday in May. The theme is "Summer Carnival." This theme was chosen because Family Fun Night truly has become a party to kick off summer and fun times.

Stephanie unveiled plans for refurbishing the staff lounge and the maintenance men's lunch area. She talked about the "wish list" of needed items which was on the table in the back. Some of those items include paint, microwaves, tools, refrigerator, coffeepot, and pallet jack. She asked for volunteers to help spiff up the rooms once the items have been purchased.

Marc discussed the escrip program and how it works, and announced that sign-ups would be taken on the library computer after the meeting. He also discussed the lunch program and that both sales and revenue are up. In addition, new juices are being provided with the lunch purchase. One request from the lunch "staff": tell your children NOT TO WAD UP THEIR MONEY!

Jacqueline was not present, so Tammy announced that the "White Tigers Go Green" program has already earned \$19.27 from recycling. Also, the otter pops sales had stopped because we ran out of otter pops, but they will begin again on October 3, 2008, as more have been secured.

Kathryn announced the coming end of the pumpkin growing contest, which will take place on October 10, 2008. The prizes are ice cream coupons: \$5 for the biggest pumpkin and \$5 for the best carved jack-o-lantern. She also talked about the children celebrating Johnny Appleseed's birthday on September 26 by eating applesauce and reading two books which were donated to the library. She also discussed the city-wide bookmark contest (Spring 2009) and the "Imagine This" writing contest sponsored by the state-wide Ag in the Classroom program

Kathryn also showed off copies of pages of the September 2008 PTO magazine which listed Heritage K-8 as an "Editor's Choice" for the Best PTO contest and also listed Heritage's Fun Academy as one of "26 Great Ideas from This Year's Entries," along with a picture of students Nathaniel Carroll and Sydney Briskie. The framed letter of congratulations from PTO's editor and the framed Certificate of Achievement were on the table at the back of the room.

Kathryn discussed possible grant applications, including Lowe's, Chargers, San Diego Ag in the Classroom, Sprouts, and Target.

Palma Holland thanked the PAB for its good efforts and said that it means a lot to her that the PAB really listens to her. She discussed the following:

- (1) the school now has 34 work stations in the computer lab and, while not completely up-to-date, they are about 20 years newer than what we had;
- (2) a tutoring program using tutors from ECHS will soon start at Heritage;
- (3) the YMCA afterschool program will start October 14, 2008;
- (4) Assistant Director Veronica Farran has volunteered to be the adult leader of the ASB;
- (5) Heritage Notes will be available on the website, only, as of October 2, 2008;
- (6) Parent / Teacher Conferences will take place October 22 through October 24 from 1 – 4 p.m. in fifteen minute increments.

Palma also talked about staff development and why it is very important to the morale and the quality of the school. She gave an example of a program she learned about ("Silent Sustained Reading") when she was a teacher that she was able to implement at ECHS and which is still in effect. She stated that the two kindergarten teachers are going to a conference in Palm Springs in

December 2008 to learn skills they can bring back to the other teachers. The money for the conference is going to come from Heritage Foundation, but there is money in the PAB budget for staff development, as well. It is Palma's intention to give teachers as much education as she can to help them influence students.

Palma was happy to announce that the STAR testing results from Spring 2008 were in and the school's score went up ten points from 865 to 875. She also said she couldn't take any credit for that increase (since this is her first year at Heritage). However, she was pleased to note that Heritage's score is 142 points higher than the district average.

Jennifer Cooper thanked the PAB for its "incredible support" for Digital and asked that Digital parents contact Digital parents Kristin Bueller or Myrna Farwell with questions or comments that they want brought to the PAB.

At various times during the meeting, audience members asked about the staff appreciation budget and how much was earned from e-scrip last year. The staff appreciation budget is \$500 and e-scrip earned \$400 last year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the All-Parent Meeting of the Parent Advisory Board is tentatively scheduled for January 8, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. either in the auditorium at Escondido Charter High School or at the Heritage K-8 Multipurpose Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Turner-Arsenault