

Heritage K-8 Charter School Parent Advisory Meeting

January 15, 2009
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The January All-Parents Meeting of the Parent Advisory Board was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Tammy Cummings. Board members present were President Tammy Cummings, Vice-President Marc Lindsey, Treasurer Andrea Egli, Secretary Kathryn Turner-Arsenault, Member Marna Farwell, and Member Stephanie Boren. Member Jami Baar was not present. Director Palma Holland of Heritage K-8 and Director Jennifer Cooper of Digital Academy were both present, as was Executive Director Dennis Snyder, and Assistant Director Veronica Farran.

Tammy Cummings led the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge, Tammy thanked those present for coming and stated that the purpose of this meeting was to update everyone on fundraising, fund spending, and programs being provided to the school by the parents and volunteers.

Board Reports

Tammy listed for the audience the items, programs, and activities that the PAB has been able to purchase and provide for the school. These included teaching seminars, overhead projectors, and learning programs. The money for these items comes from afterschool clubs, Taco Tuesday, and Pizza Friday.

Tammy announced that she was seeking a parent to volunteer to lead the Fun Academy project. Fun Academy is a Saturday morning program taught completely by parents and other volunteers and focuses on the interests of the students, such as song, dance, drama, cooking, gardening, soap-making, and recycling.

Tammy announced that more tiles will be available for purchase at the 2009 Family Fun Night, and that the tiles that have already been decorated will be put up soon by two volunteer dads.

Andrea provided information to the parents regarding the income and outgo of PAB money. As of 12/31/08, Pizza Friday has taken in \$3,500, and Taco Tuesday has taken in \$2,500. The afterschool programs have taken in \$2,100, and box tops/cartridges, *et cetera*, have taken in more than \$600. The PAB also gets money from recycling. There has been total income of \$9,300 so far, and outgo of \$5,700. We have spent money on technology, teachers' seminars, p.e. equipment (\$200), library incentives (\$400), administrative costs (newsletter) (\$500), the gardening program (\$500), a music keyboard (\$400), and staff appreciation (\$350).

Andrea reminded everyone that the recyclable electronics contest ends January 30 and the winning classroom will get a prize to use for the classroom or a party.

Andrea announced that the next Rubio's lunch is January 29, 2009.

Stephanie talked about the second Family Movie Night, which is to take place on Friday, January 17, 2009. The gate will open at 6:00 p.m. and the movie will start at 7:00 p.m. All families can bring a picnic lunch and set their chairs up on the playground to watch the original version of "The Great Race," starring Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis, and Natalie Wood. Entrance is free.

Stephanie gave a very good rundown of the goodies that the PAB is providing for the teachers' lounge, including tea, oatmeal, coffee, and other food treats. Because Stephanie has had some unexpected events in her life lately, the lounge has not yet been painted, although she will be doing that soon and she is asking for volunteers to help her.

Stephanie discussed Family Fun Night, which is the school's end of the year summer carnival and includes food, games, a jumpie, and a d.j. High schoolers can earn community service hours for helping out. There was a sign-up sheet at the back of the room for people to let Stephanie know if they will be available to help.

Marna introduced herself to the parents as the newest member of the PAB. She asked parents to donate Otter Pops so that we can get going on Otter Pops sales as soon as the weather warms up. She asked for parents to volunteer to sell the Otter Pops.

Marna asked that parents contact her if they would like to help her with Digital Academy's portions of the 2008-2009 yearbook, including providing photographs.

Marc discussed the escrip program and how it works, and announced that there are currently 53 members signed up. That is 530% over our original target.

Marc explained the I-Give program which is when on-line merchandisers forward a percentage of the cost of a purchase to the charity designated by the purchaser.

Marc discussed the lunch program and publicly thanked the people involved in running the program with him and selling the lunches on Tuesdays and Fridays. One request from the lunch "staff": tell your children NOT TO WAD UP THEIR MONEY!

Kathryn announced the upcoming PAB elections and provided relevant dates and information from the by-laws regarding the election process. Kathryn offered to provide a copy of the by-laws, either by e-mail or on paper, to anyone who wants a copy, and noted that everyone at the school is entitled to have a copy.

Kathryn requested that families send in compostable kitchen waste such as apple cores, banana peels, and vegetable pieces because the first through third graders will be doing a composting project in the garden.

Kathryn invited the parents to stop by the garden to see the daffodils' "shark fins" poking through the soil.

Administration Reports

Coach Dennis Snyder talked about anticipating cuts for this school year based on the state's continuing budget woes. He stated that he is not sure about what cuts will take place next year. If

there is no budget by February 1, the state will start giving out IOUs. Our district has a reserve and we will weather the storm. The district is very conservative with the budget.

Coach is not sure if there will be money to refurbish the classrooms that we would need for the new fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. The goal is also to make the playground bigger this summer. The office tenants in the other building will be moving out this summer.

Coach also talked about the robotics program at the high school and that there is a theater arts program on Thursdays for some of the ILP students. An "Academy of Applied Technologies" for kids who won't be going to college is also being started in partnership with Cal State San Marcos. The program will include education in police, fire, paramedics, and new types of power (solar, wind, *et cetera*).

Coach announced that a business referral directory is being started for families at the high school and elementary school. It will be on-line and will cost \$95 per year for school families' businesses and \$195 for non-school businesses.

Coach told those present that the district is holding the money from the pledge drive in the case the state budget does not work out.

Palma Holland stated that this has been a very exciting school year for her. She appreciates the parents and volunteers who have made this year so great. She said that, although she realized that the people at the meeting are the people who do much of the volunteer work at the school, in order to get other parents involved, she is thinking about reinstating the mandatory volunteer hours requirement.

Palma also talked about the complete computer lab which is now upstairs. There are 34 computers in the lab and 17 more computers will be purchased as funds are available, for the classrooms.

Some of the parents present expressed their concerns that "the school" does not seem to want the parents around as much as it used to and that the parents feel rushed in and out when they pick up their kids. Palma invited everyone to visit her in her office to express their concerns and let her know their ideas about making the school better.

Jennifer Cooper thanked those present for the technology that has been purchased for Digital Academy.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

The next All-Parent Meeting of the Parent Advisory Board is tentatively scheduled for April 16, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Heritage K-8 Multipurpose Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Turner-Arsenault