

Heritage Charter School Parent Advisory Board

March 10, 2009
Held at Digital Academy

MINUTES

The Parent Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 1:09 p.m. by Tammy Cummings.

Those members in attendance, in addition to Tammy, were Andrea Egli and Kathryn Turner-Arsenault. Marc Lindsey came in at the very end of the meeting. A quorum was never present and no votes were taken. Also present at the meeting was Palma Holland, Director of Heritage K-8 Charter School, and Jennifer Cooper, Director of Digital Academy.

There was no motion to approve the agenda, but the group generally agreed to follow the outline.

As there was no quorum, the discussion of, and motion to approve, the minutes of March 10, 2009, was deferred to the next meeting.

Approval of Correspondence Prepared on Behalf of PAB:

There was no correspondence prepared on behalf of the PAB that needed to be approved.

Communication from Committee Chairs or Committee Members:

Family Fun Day – There is no baseball tournament on Family Fun Day, so no big conflict with families' schedules. The Day will take place from 2 – 6 p.m. The d.j. has agreed to that schedule. Andrea said that pricing is unclear at this point. The expenses and costs are in line with last year. Andrea will contact Vanessa Estrada for further information about pricing.

Volunteer Appreciation – Palma has approved a letter to the teachers requesting recommendations for volunteer appreciation. Weekly recognition, such as in the Heritage Notes, was discussed.

Fundraising: Escondido Joe's, which is owned by the Parker Family, has offered to give 20% of its sales for a regular school day. Various days were discussed, and the last day before Easter Break (April 2) was tentatively decided on. Tammy will talk to Barbara Parker. There is also a possibility of doing a similar fundraiser with Baskin-Robbins on East Valley Parkway, which has re-modeled and is looking really good. Nancy Sticka brought the idea in, and we will be getting more information about setting up the date.

Target Fundraiser: AHEF is doing a Target Fundraiser. Parents just register their Target Visa cards as they would register their Vons cards, *et cetera*, and a percentage goes to AHEF.

Communications (input from school staff, parents, and the public)

Science Lab Needs: Tammy has e-mailed Marc Lindsey about Avistatech possibly donating some science equipment. They have not yet discussed it, however. The deadline for the Cox grant is March 31. Should we go for more web-based technology or science-based equipment? No final decision was made.

White Tiger Awards: At 03/03/09 staff meeting, the teachers voted to reinstitute the White Tiger Awards. They will be given to students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades with a 4.0 g.p.a. We need to get an

estimate of the cost. We also need to find out if there are any students who would have gotten heads for the Fall 2008 semester that need to get “caught up” on the award.

Seminars: On March 20 there is a boys’ bullying seminar that teacher Ryan Ruff and Veronica Farran are attending that has already been approved and paid for. This summer there is a girls’ bullying seminar that Veronica would like to attend in Las Vegas. We have \$1400 left in the budget for teacher development. The costs for the seminar would be \$425 for the seminar, \$200 for a hotel for two nights, and \$200 for a plane flight for a total of \$825. The deadline to sign up is April 15. We will put this item on the agenda for a vote at the next meeting.

April 16, 2009, PAB All Parent Meeting: Palma brought information about a financial planner who talks to parents of children in elementary school regarding preparing financially for college. It was generally agreed that this speaker would be a benefit to the school community, but our April 16 spaghetti dinner / meeting / volunteer recognition has a very tight schedule. Therefore, it was generally decided that the spaghetti dinner will take place from 5 – 7; the PAB meeting will take place from 7 – 7:50 p.m., or so; there will be a ten minute break to re-group and parents can leave if they want, then the speaker will speak from about 8 to 8:30 p.m.

Ideas for Better Controlling 7th and 8th Grades on the Playground: Jami asked that this item be put on the agenda as it appears that there is a great deal of difficulty controlling both pugilistic and amorous tendencies of the middle school students on the playground. Jami could not attend this meeting, but she sent a list of recommendations and ideas for gaining control of the situation, besides just separating the two grades during lunch time. There was a lively discussion of all of these ideas and the issue will be re-visited as more information becomes available and the situation is modified or all hell breaks loose. Jami’s ideas included:

- Have Evan come over from the high school at lunch and play ball once or twice a week;
- Have the offenders clean the tables and pick up trash during or after lunch or after school;
- Keep a tally of offenses require service to school (*i.e.* help the little ones with their games);
- Require children to raise hands and ask politely lunch lady politely to be after area is cleaned up;
- Hire a “manners” expert to teach an assembly or “Saturday School” detention;
- Take away Blue/Gray Ball privilege for offenders;
- Hire chipper lunch ladies;
- “Catch Them Being Good” with a reward for so many “catches”;
- Bring back Core Virtues, minus the awards, if that’s why they stopped;
- Tougher consequences for dress code offenders and people “making out”; and
- Last on the list is “punish everyone” because it breeds contempt.

Barring Non-Costumed People from Blue-Grey Ball: Kathryn put this item on the agenda because she was concerned that children (and parents) who cannot afford costumes this year would not be able to attend the Blue-Grey Ball because of the “rule” that you must be costumed. She was angry about the attempt to separate her family from her child since the family has decided not to be costumed this year. The discussion then developed into a general discussion of how many of the children eligible to go actually were going, how many children would go if they could afford tickets, and how many children would not go because they had no costume. It was generally agreed that Jennifer and Palma would identify any children who would otherwise attend and the ASB and the PAB would possibly purchase tickets for those children. Because the Ball was in only four days, time was of the essence.

Recording of E-mail Votes Taken Since the Last Meeting in Minutes for this Meeting:

No e-mail votes were taken between the last previous meeting and this one.

Financial Report

There was no updated budget to attach to these Minutes. Only Taco Tuesday and Pizza Friday money have come in since the last meeting, as well as some yearbook money. Sheila Randle has not yet returned the PAB's \$1,077. Palma will check on that.

Old and New Business

PAB Meeting Dates: There will be PAB meetings on April 14, 2009, and April 28, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. There will be an All Parent PAB Meeting on April 16, 2009. There will also be a mandatory PAB meeting during the first part of May, pursuant to the by-laws, to open the election ballots.

Lost Check from Last Year: Andrea says the lost check from last year has not come through. It appears we can write it off. She will check for sure.

Digital Liaison Report

The by-laws do not permit a Digital Liaison so long as any Board member is a Digital parent, as Marna Farwell is.

Member Reports on Current Activities

Tammy is working on the fencing afterschool club contract.

Seventh grade is doing a spaghetti dinner at April 16 PAB meeting to raise money for Catalina.

The d.j. contract for Family Fun Day has been signed.

A second grade parent has stepped forward to work with Kathryn on gardening and hopefully take over the program when Kathryn's daughter moves to the high school in fall 2010.

Jump rope afterschool club wants to do an end-of-school performance.

Adjournment

As there was no quorum, there was no motion to adjourn. The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2009, at Classroom A in the Digital Academy.

Tabled Business:

The following items for discussion have been tabled by the members but are listed here in the event that a member wants to revisit an item at a later meeting.

- Reverse 911 system and emergency notification procedures
- Playground
- Elizabeth Lock's idea for a cookbook fundraiser
- T-shirt / sweatshirt sale

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Turner-Arsenault