

Heritage K-8 Charter School Parent Advisory Meeting

April 16, 2009
7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The April All-Parents Meeting of the Parent Advisory Board was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Tammy Cummings. Board members present were President Tammy Cummings, Treasurer Andrea Egli, Secretary Kathryn Turner-Arsenault, Member Marna Farwell, Member Jami Baar and Member Stephanie Boren. Vice-President Marc Lindsey 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. Teachers Gina Curley and Shawna Nugent were present and spoke to the gathering. Guest speakers Richard Nelson and ASB Vice-President Amanda Sisco were also in attendance.

Palma Holland led the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge, Tammy thanked those present for coming and stated that the main purpose of this meeting was to update everyone on preparations for Family Fun Day and that we would also be hearing from various PAB members and administrators regarding ongoing projects.

Report from Associated Student Body (ASB)

Amanda Sisco gave a report about ASB activities for the year 2009-2010. These included an "80's" dance and a "Black-and-White" dance for seventh and eighth graders. The ASB has also sponsored lunchtime activities to raise school spirit. They have been doing fundraising so they can give a gift to the school at the end of the year. The fundraising has included the "penny wars" and selling Easter baskets. The ASB has also started a "Great Heritage" program which rewards kids for doing good deeds. Kids get a ticket for being good and, at the end of the program, there will be a raffle for gift certificates for those who have received a ticket.

Board Reports

Tammy talked about parent involvement in schools and stated that 100% of all studies on the issue show that parent involvement in schools is a positive for the schools and the students. She listed some of the many ways there are to volunteer at school or at home on behalf of the school. These include: helping in the classroom or at lunchtime, selling otter pops, being a member of the PAB, working in the library, and working on staff or volunteer appreciation activities. There are also community building activities which need parent volunteers: the back-to-school picnic, the first day of school coffee, Family Fun Day, and working on facilities or gardening.

Tammy talked about the election schedule and advised that only four people had applied for seven PAB positions. She stated that the bylaws provide that all four people are therefore deemed elected. Those four are Stephanie Boren, Andrea Egli, Marna Farwell, and Kathryn Turner-Arsenault. Tammy asked for three additional volunteers to be on the PAB and said that new members would be interviewed and appointed at the beginning of the next school year.

Tammy gave two websites where parents can find additional information about volunteering and about making schools better: www.familiesschools.org and www.schoolfamily.org.

Tammy introduced parent Christine Filipovich to talk about Junior Achievement. Junior Achievement is a program that has existed since 1919. They provide curriculum and volunteers, whom they train. Most of the volunteers come from companies that also donate to Junior Achievement. There are five or six lessons (games, high interest, not lecturing) that fit the California standards. There is an audit every year to make sure the program is working. Several teachers from different grades have expressed interest in having the Junior Achievement program for their kids. Christine offered to show her materials to interested parents after the meeting.

Andrea gave a financial report to the group, including income and expenses to date. The following are income items that Andrea discussed: Pizza Fridays (\$6,402.00), Taco Tuesdays (\$5,091.00), After School Activities (\$2,538.00), Rubio's Lunches (\$792.00), Otter Pops (\$309.00), Escrip (\$422.00), and Other (Cartridges 4 Kids, box tops, *et cetera*: \$2,340.00). Total income to date is \$17,894.00. The following are expense items that Andrea discussed: Technology (\$2,565.00), Teacher Development (\$3,604.00), Library Incentives (\$863.00), Gardening (\$502.00), Music Program (\$400.00), Staff Appreciation (\$353.00), Physical Education Equipment (\$222.00), and PAB Administration (\$1,437.00). Total expenses to date are \$9,946.00.

Andrea advised that the goal of the Parent Advisory Board is to spend the money earned each year, while saving a bit to allow the next year's Board to function until money starts coming in from various PAB-supported programs.

Jami introduced Cynthia Diaz, who thanked her great parent volunteers for putting the yearbook together. These parents are Lori Cain, Victoria Schaeffer, Cinnamon Coons, and Adam Robertson. Cynthia was happy to tell everyone that, thanks to volunteer efforts, every child at the school has been photographed for candid pages in the yearbook. Cynthia has tried to keep the price of the yearbook low enough that it just covers costs.

Jami announced that (1) money from the last Scholastic Book Fair purchased \$2,000 worth of books; (2) there will be a book fair at Family Fun Day and Clifford the Big Red Dog will be there; (3) the PAB will get 60% of the value of the books sold at the Family Fun Day book fair toward the purchase of more books; (4) the author of Skylar's Big Adventure will be at the Family Fun Day book fair to sell and autograph her book; and (5) the library will close on May 1 to get the library ready for summer by cleaning and re-organizing. Jami asked for volunteers for next year and pointed out the sign-up sheets on the whiteboard at the front of the room. Jami also asked for seventh graders and their parents to volunteer to assist with the eighth grade promotion on May 21.

Stephanie introduced Vanessa Estrada to talk about Family Fun Day. Vanessa is asking for volunteers because Family Fun Day relies completely on volunteers to pull off a four-hour carnival at which kids and families can celebrate the end of the school year. Help is desperately needed. Vanessa is asking for each person to donate ½ hour or 1 hour. Vanessa talked to everyone about the logistics of the event, including wristbands, GameTruck, jumpies, booths, airbrush tattoos, and colored hairspray. There will be food for the whole family at a price that will allow a family of four to eat for under \$20. Only cash will be accepted for food and for entry/wristbands. The class with the most volunteer hours for Family Fun Day will get a pizza or ice cream party. Stephanie told the meeting that the party is being donated by Vanessa Estrada and Shannon Preciado, the Family Fun Day chairpeople.

Marna talked about Otter Pop sales, which started up again this month. She asked for donations of Otter Pops from Costco and pointed out that one box can be purchased for about \$7.63 and then re-

sold for a total \$75.00. That is an amazing return on the investment. Marna also thanked the volunteers who have been working for the school this year and asked for additional help in the future.

Kathryn talked about the status of the garden, which has been planted for spring by the children. She described some of the lessons the children have been learning and talked about the joy the children show during their gardening time. She thanked the parents for their support.

Administration Reports

Palma reminded those present that STAR testing starts next week. She asked parents to make sure their children get plenty of sleep and a good breakfast and lunch, and arrive at school on time. Palma announced that Coach is hosting an end-of-STAR-testing barbecue lunch on April 29. She also announced that (1) next year we will have two classes for every grade except fifth; (2) the next new-parent orientation is set for April 28; (3) there is a list of 800 students for 90 openings; (4) there will be 395 children at Heritage next year; (5) there will be no pink slips this year; and (6) there will be no budget cuts to the classrooms.

Palma introduced Gina Curley and Shawna Nugent, first grade teacher and fourth grade teacher, respectively. Both teachers gave very nice speeches thanking the parents for providing professional seminars to them and the other teachers. They really enjoyed the seminars they went to and learned a lot, allowing them to return to the school and share their knowledge with the children and other teachers.

Jennifer told the parents that Civil War Day was great, and thanked the two parents who headed the effort, Shellie Bobadilla and Kari Coe. Jennifer announced that Digital Academy will have a ninth grade college prep program starting next year. She also announced the orientation date for parents of Digital students.

Jennifer then called Palma, Marna, Tammy, and Jami up to the podium and Marna presented Jami and Tammy with flowers and gift cards to thank them for all of their hard work these last two years. Everybody clapped loudly.

Conclusion

The meeting ended at 7:55 p.m.

After a five-minute break, the guest speaker, Richard Nelson, gave a talk entitled "College Funding Strategies."

The next All-Parent Meeting of the Parent Advisory Board will take place after the fall 2009 semester starts.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Turner-Arsenault