

PTO Board Meeting Minutes
9/20/07
5-6 p.m.

In attendance: Dave Laslo, Merry Denny, Kim Elliott, Andy Thorp, Darren O'Brien, Melissa DeHart, Pat Cleeland, Sheryl Trask

Pat Cleeland mentioned that we do not have a balanced budget this year. We will be \$8,500 in the red if we spend what we did last year. This does not include money from friends of Kennard. Pat has added a music fee of \$50/month for work that she does to manage books for music academy. We need to raise and cut a combination of \$8,000 to have a balanced budget. All member should look at how we can cut the budget.

Fundraising:

Andy will look at a draft for a Friends of Kennard letter for people who would like to contribute and not participate in fundraisers.

Barnes & Noble card that will give a portion of sales. There will be a card to swipe.

Holiday Boutique will have items of value from 25 cents to \$10. Where would the money raised go?

Box tops for education– we are approved to use. Competition will be school wide not class by class competition

Mile Elliott gave his volunteer and database report. Volunteer hours were 157 hour for August, 2007.

Mike is working on Buzz book and forms will go out to parents. The hope is to have the buzz book out to printer by end of October.

Melissa DeHart has identified 8-9 parents to be class room parents. New teachers need help identifying parents to be classroom parents.

She proposed a Giving Tree so parents could contribute specific items to their classroom.

Andy will not assign a cost of “not participating” in fundraising into the letter.

Enrichment – will have first meeting on Monday. Springboard to learning (arts partnership with them) They have funding to do some of Springboard. Goals: Language arts, class performances and story telling performances. We get some money through desegregation program and some district money

Darren gave District Affairs report with an overview for the Parent Assembly regarding the political state of the school board. Melanie Adams did speak. The board will be rolling out strategic plan and will have small groups.

The Board will approve the bylaws and calendar by email

Sheryl Trask asked PTO to purchase safety kits for classrooms. Purchase was approved.

Safety committee is trying to get extra people on the playground through volunteers. Add went out to get older volunteers. \$500 was approved for safety budget.

District Affairs Summary

9-24-07

1. At the Parent Assembly Meeting last Thursday 9-19, SAB President Richard Sullivan was supposed to attend but did not. Melanie Adams, of the SAB, did attend and stayed for about an hour to talk about district issues. Ms. Adams refused to answer questions regarding Mr. Sullivan's status or the political maneuvers that have brought the District to its current situation, regarding governance and revoked accreditation. She claimed to be focused solely on the District's operations and what can be done to improve the District, though she did claim to be 99% certain that Mr. Sullivan would continue to be the CEO of the SAB and District. She would not elaborate. Susan Turk of the SLS Watch has reported that Governor Blunt has in fact re-submitted Mr. Sullivan's name for a recess appointment.

The climate at the meeting was very tense and there were heated exchanges between Ms. Adams and several frustrated attendees. Ms. Adams stated that a new action plan for the district would be "rolled out" in the next few weeks. When asked how that would be done, she replied that members of the administration and the SAB would meet with small community groups in discussions in which they would seek feedback from the community. She did not give any more detail other than that the plan was begun in April, and that it was being created with the help of an outside consultant. Once again there was no more information.

Generally, Ms. Adams was evasive and there was very little substance to report from her performance.

2. Tuesday the 25th is the court date in which a lawsuit will be heard to block the state's takeover of the district.

3. The SAB announced last week that it would begin to share some information with the Elected Board and acknowledged the Board's role in auditing and reporting on district operations. The SAB did not agree to submit the district's operations to open and unrestricted auditing from the Board. The Board's only public statement, one from President Peter Downs, called it "a start." At the last School Board meeting Thursday night, I asked if the Board would comment on the situation or give additional information, but no one commented. At the Board meeting, it was stated that Dr. Bourisaw continues to be unresponsive to all requests for information from the Board.

4. Board member Donna Jones has compiled a School Climate report containing eight points of focus. The list includes the turbulent beginning of the school year regarding transportation, class assignments, fights, staffing, the lack of air conditioning, school cleanliness, or the lack thereof, food service and a climate of why bother. The report concludes that the problems stemmed from decisions made by the administration and its lack of communication and organization, and that most if not all of the problems were avoidable.

5. Board President Peter Downs and SAB member Richard Gaines attended a forum hosted by the Saint Louis Chapter of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare last Friday. Also, Board member Flint Fowler is on a Real Estate Committee for the SAB which met last week. At the School Board meeting last Thursday, a resolution was passed asking Mr. Fowler to report on the actions and or findings of that committee.