

Sunnyvale Middle School PTSA
Approved Minutes of the November 7, 2006 Meeting

Adult Attendees: Joanne Asato, Jill Baigent, Connie Brookner, Beth Clark, Dianne Cressler, Michelle Erlichman, Peter and Sabrina Fu, Tonya Gregory, Anita Herrmann, Angelica Kamai-Hymes, Sandra Koelzer, M. Kruze, Ken Lamarche, D. Lee, Stacy Niblett, Kevin Schieberl, Valerie Spierling, Alexa Watrous, Kathleen Whalen, Itsuro Yoshimoto

Student Attendees: Stephen Bi, Clara Binding, Troy Erlichman, Janice Fu, Mirko Gataric, Madison Gregory, Amir Ghowsi, Wangui Hymes, Hannah Koelzer, Derick Lee, Kimberly Nguyen, Ashlyn Spierling, Emily Yoshimoto

Call to Order: Michelle Erlichman 7:06

Leadership: Ashlyn Spierling, President

- Renaissance hosted a pizza party and prizes for qualified students from 4th quarter of last year.
- Daily themes for Red Ribbon week included ‘show your spirit’, ‘krazy hair’, ‘sports team wear’, and ‘pajama’ day. Other activities included a door contest, a poster contest, balloon popping and a pillow toss.
- Leadership sponsored a kickball tournament, culminating in a championship game between teachers and 8th grade boys.
- Some students walked at Great America to raise money for muscular dystrophy.
- Members attended a strategic planning meeting and a leadership lunch with other schools.
- Upcoming events include Spartan citizen, a dance, and first quarter renaissance.

Guest Speakers: Teachers from the electives department

- **Lindsay Parker:** 3D Art/Sculpture, Craft and Design, Commercial Art
 - Passed out handouts listing Electives Department teachers and classes and Howard Gardner’s 7 Multiple Intelligences.
 - Displayed project from each class:
 - 3D Art/Sculpture:
 - Egyptian scarabs
 - Faux pumpkin carving
 - Superheros
 - Commercial Art
 - Product Model
 - Company logo
 - Craft and Design
 - Theme pine cabinets
- **Kevin Schieberl:** Band, Orchestra, Music Appreciation, Beginning and Advanced Ensembles
 - Musicians Steven Bi, Clara Binding, and Janice Fu on violin, Derrick Lee on viola, and Hannah Koelzer and Emily Yoshimoto on cello gave an enjoyable performance.
 - There will be a concert on December 12; mark your calendars.

- **Sara Steiner:** Art appreciation, Advanced Art and Printmaking
 - The following are some of the projects to develop student's perceptual skills and motor skills, and knowledge of art history, contemporary art and cultural art.
 - Watercolor studies
 - Contour drawings
 - Post impressionists (recreated from a landscape picture)
 - Dia de los muertos piece to study Mexican culture (skull art dedicated to a lost loved one)
 - **Char Goldring:** Drama
 - This year we will have two shows. First will be a musical, Honk, on 1/11/07, which is the story of the ugly duckling. Madison Gregory, who plays the mother duck, performed a lovely song from the musical.
 - **Alexa Watrous:** Home-Living, AVID
 - Less like what one might remember from old fashioned home-ec, life skills class teaches the basics one needs to know to live on one's own including:
 - Simple sewing
 - Budgeting, with incomes and salaries
 - Child development unit, with babysitting guides
 - Cooking, nutrition
 - Designing children's toys
 - Hazardous household items (handout included)
 - **Marianne Kruz:** Web Design, Computer Graphics, Computers, Spartan TV and Yearbook
 - Computers teaches uses software, like Word, Powerpoint, and Excel.
 - Yearbook has faced challenges due to limited budget and antiquated technology. Publishing companies have implemented the ability for schools to create the yearbook pages on their servers, bypassing many of these limitations. There was a brief demonstration.
 - **Joanne Asato:** GATE
 - Students are eligible for GATE if they were eligible in Elementary school based on testing there. Incoming students can be tested for GATE eligibility if necessary.
 - GATE funds are used for activities to support differentiated instruction in the classroom, including speakers during staff development.
 - Other activities include science club, homework club, math club, great books for English classes, the Sparta program, and the Mega Math Marathon.
 - Kimberly Nguyen of the Math Club was introduced.
 - Drivers are needed to take students to math contests.
 - Currently there are about 30 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in the math club.
- Principal's report:** Ms. Frances Dampier
- SMS is advocating a perfect attendance award, with Leadership and others contributing to the policy. Some parents are concerned that this will make it more difficult to convince sick students to remain at home. Nonetheless, it is very important for students to attend school, especially during STAR testing.

- The Principal recently held a luncheon for student, distributing certificates and food coupons.
- The Principal is considering asking PTSA to sponsor field trip or contribute more money towards graduation for 8th graders.
- Three SMS students will be honored at the upcoming Santa Clara County Artist's Showcase.

Teacher's Report: Marti Coppage

- 1st report cards have gone home. If you're not pleased with the results, talk to your student. Students can get additional help through the homework club or from their teachers. Contact teachers directly if you feel you need to make sure your student is getting appropriate help.
- The direct appeal earned \$16,300.79 as of yesterday, with 392 donators participating. Five classes earned a reward lunch party by fulfilling the 100% participation goal: Goldring, Kim, Ramirez, Weller, and Coppage. Concerning the Coppage/Kim challenge, Ms. Kim's class brought in the most money, so Ms. Coppage will have to choose whether to allow students to throw water balloons at her now in the chilly weather, or wait until spring when it will be warmer but the students will be bigger and stronger. Thanks for all you do for our students Ms. Coppage!
- The direct appeal is still accepting donations!

Review and Approval of Minutes: Anita Herrmann

- Change 'Some teacher are having' to "Some teachers are having".

Treasurer's Report: Tonya Gregory

- Tax filings for 2005-2006 are completed.
- Anita Herrmann moved to approve checks as written, Dianne Cressler seconded. There was no discussion, motion carried.

Scrip report, Diane Cressler

- There were 15 paper scrip orders, raising \$236. Escrip and paper scrip have raised about \$5300 year to date.
- There was some discussion about parents not getting the paper scrip forms from their students in a timely manner. Possible solutions include:
 - Extend time to turn in order
 - Get message in daily bulletin earlier
 - Make sure parents know they can download the form from the SMS website

New Business:

- Bylaws:
 - Renewed last year, don't need to revisit until next year
- Community building
 - Studio D2 would love to have parents come in to help.
 - There was a spirited discussion of community involvement.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 pm

- Next PTSA meeting: Tuesday, January 9, 2006 in the Staff Room (check date)

http://www.sesd.org/Schools/Sunnyvale_Middle/ptsa/ptsa/home.html

Minutes by Anita Herrmann, PTSA Secretary 06-07

