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Minutes of the February 5, 2008 meeting

Attendance not taken

I. Call to Order: President, Susie Lamarche opened the meeting at 7:03.

II. SMS Leadership: Report given by Student Steven Bi

*The following activities were organized by and carried out by the Leadership Team

-Sixth Grade party (2/1/08, 114 in attendance)

-Soccer Intramural

-Flag Football Intramural

III. Teacher's Report: Marti Coppage

*Report Cards were sent out last week. If there are any questions, please direct them to your student's teachers.

*The program for Standards Based Report Cards is being refined in the Math and English pilot programs. SMS is trying to learn from the mistakes of grade schools. The program is learning to assess the students more than in the pst with evaluating based on standards. The District Committee decided students will get a hybrid report card which will include a letter grade and a Standards based grade.

IV. Guest Speaker: Expectations for High School Exit Exam, Reyna Hill

*Ms. Hill is a counselor a SMS and works with our students. She presented us with a PowerPoint presentation that she also gives to students. It included:

-An explanation of the High School experience

-The Stairway to High School (building blocks to success)

-An explanations of the Career Center

-Accepting help (from parents, teachers, etc.)

-Summer Programs for 7th and 8th graders

-Just Do It program designed for Spec. Ed students

-Supporting Activities were encouraged

V. Guest Speaker: The GATE Program, Mrs. Asato

*Mrs. Asato explained the three areas that the GATE program is using with funds.

-New programs: 7th & 8th grade Honors English

-District Direction: Teacher In-Services provide differentiated instruction

-Enrichment: Funds are used for Math and French clubs

* Mrs. Asato also noted Algebra Enriched students do need tutoring. Teachers are holding tutorials.

VI. Principal's Report, Mrs. Dampier

*Report not given to Mrs. Dampier's illness

VII. Previous Minutes

*December's Minutes were not available for review so it was decided to review December and February Minutes at the March meeting.

VIII. Treasurer's Report, Diane Cressler

*Last PTSA meeting we had received requests we couldn't honor. In December the PTSA received a \$7000 anonymous donation. Valerie Spierling made a motion to ratify the disbursements. Mr. Realini gave

it a 2nd. Motion passed.

IX. Old Business

*Was discussed that we will be needing new officers next year.

X. New Business

*Linda Slavich offered a suggestion for further fundraising via Box Tops 4 Education. There are three available programs: books, purchases through their website (similar to Schoolpop), and box tops collected and turned in to the school. We would need someone to own the program. This discussion will be looked into and discussed next month.

*Budget Requests:

1) Mr. Roberts (Miniatures Club) has requested \$1000 for a wishlist, which can be provided upon request. The budget committee has approved this request. Valerie Speirling made a motion to approve the request which was 2nd by Ruth Helfinstein.

-Discussion was that the club is very successful and would like to support it.

Q. Does the Science Dept. have enough funding?

A. Science is ok right now. This year is fine, but next year will be problematic. Q. Will other departments need more funding, particularly departments with large money needs (Science, Language Arts)?

Q. Is there money for clubs? Is it possible to for the teachers of clubs to receive a stipend?

\$675 was approved, which would give Miniatures Club \$1000 for the year. A new amended motion was put on the table to approve the request from \$1000 to \$675 by Kristine Lawrence. Diane Cressler 2nd. No one opposed.

2) It was discussed that it would be very helpful to the PTSA if Mrs. Dampier could help create wishlists from the departments and clubs. This would help the PTSA decide how to honor requests.

XI. Meeting Closed. Next meeting is March 4th, 2008, 7:00 pm in the Staffroom.

Respectfully submitted by Stacey Niblett