



President's Report

October 30, 2009

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Interpretation/Translation

To date we have had some issues with this aspect of the PTA. I contacted Joe Yanovitch, Interpretation/Translation Coordinator, and Gigi Guerrero, Spanish Family Liaison, to discuss a possible restructuring of those committees to address the following identified issues:

- Lack of an Interpretation/Translation protocol.
- Failure to translate the Knotes into Spanish for lack of a protocol.
- Overuse of President's time translating documents and of Spanish Family Liaison's time interpreting.
- Difficulty procuring an interpreter for the October PTA meeting.

As of right now, Gigi Guerrero and Joe Yanovitch will work in conjunction to create a protocol. Gigi will take up the Translation side of things --- facilitating the translation of flyers, Knotes, and other PTA documents. She has been forwarded the list of Spanish speaking staff that Mr. Masline provided. Joe will continue to arrange the Interpretation side of things --- facilitating interpreters for the PTA meetings and other events.

Since the above correspondence, the PTA received an invoice for \$150 for the translation of Knotes. I have had these forwarded to me to archive --- three of them. I will confirm that these are being sent to the Spanish speaking only families at the school and see about procuring that list to forward to Gigi and Joe to facilitate more direct outreach to this community.

Arts/Music

Art and Music

On October 6, Mr. Masline arranged a visit to Kensington Parkwood Elementary to observe and learn about their Arts Integration program in light of concerns the Executive Board brought up at the last Board Meeting. Principal Masline, Vice-president Hugh Dennis, and myself visited the school. We were able to ask pertinent and in-depth questions about their program and how we could consider bringing it to FKES. After our visit, Hugh and I came to the conclusion that FKES is very well on its way to being Arts Integrated. Many of our staff members integrate the arts naturally into their curriculum. What we are missing is the formality that is needed to truly reap all the benefits from this program. Funding, for one, would allow our staff to attend trainings and conferences that will further their arts integration curriculum. Funding would also allow more artist in residence programs.

I can make available the Arts Integration at Kensington Parkwood program that we were given during our meeting to those interested. In further investigating this option for our school, we would have to create a committee to dedicate itself to researching the opportunities available to use. Furthermore, we would have to meet with our arts staff to consider their thoughts on this program since their participation will be fundamental to the program's success.

President's proposal: Discuss with the volunteer coordinator about volunteers that have expressed an interest in the arts to see if they would be interested in forming a committee. Once a committee is established and possibilities explored, we can do a formal presentation at a January PTA Membership meeting.

Other bullets from last month's proposal that have been addressed include Mr. Masline's agreement to include appropriate presentations of Music/Art/PE at next year's Back to School Nights. Other goals will be looked at subsequently.

Traffic Circle

Hugh Dennis has agreed to chair (until the time another Chair can be identified) the Traffic Circle Pilot Program. He has met with committee members and will be providing these results in his report.

PTA Space at School

I am still in the process of relocating and organizing our space at school. Unfortunately due to personal circumstances, this has had to be tabled. Will keep everyone updated when this "move" resumes.

Committees

Money Matters

I called a meeting of the Fundraising Chairs and the Executive Board. In attendance were VP Hugh Dennis, Treasurer Renee Hutchins, Dine Out Nights Megan Wilson, and DDC Cindy Shay. Various strategies for promoting fundraising were discussed and mapped out for these committees including an incentive program for DDC that will include a thermometer at the front entrance of the school to track donations and gifting a Silent Auction ticket to those that donate a certain amount.

We have been in the process of changing the names on the Savings Account. We encountered some difficulty due to restrictions that have been placed on the account. I have drafted a letter supplying the changes. Currently the letter is in circulation to attain the three signatures of past members that are needed for the change.

I was also contacted by the Secretary of State, Charities Division. We didn't submit the necessary 990 for 2006 and now owe a \$625 fine. I have forwarded this to our treasurer Renee Hutchins who is taking care of the matter. This supports our decision to hire an accountant to keep us abreast of all the necessary requirements for our organization.

Monthly Reports

I only received two monthly reports to date: Silent Auction and FLES. I will address this concern with the Committee Chairs and Officers this month.

PTA Meetings

Crystal Willis has lined up a presentation on college savings plans for December in keeping with an alternative gift giving idea. Depending on time constraints, I might line up a discussion on the 7 keys of college success also. For January, we will have a presentation by Marla Caplon, from Foods Services.

I plan on having a paper agenda at the next meeting. Unfortunately my push to "save" paper was unsuccessful. One member expressed the thought that a paper agenda was essential in the conduction of a meeting and another expressed difficulty seeing the Powerpoint from the back. In analyzing these two comments and a lack of supporting feedback and in light of the time it takes to put together the Power point, I decided that it's production wasn't justified.

Communication

I have checked in with Secretary Stephanie Maynor and the new mail system seems to be functioning well. We have also recently addressed the creation of agendas for meetings and hope to have a better system in place. Based on goals that we set this summer for greater communication, I would like to explore the possibility of posting our Monthly reports and Membership Meeting Minutes on our Webpage.

President's proposal: That we post our Monthly reports and Membership Meeting Minutes on our Webpage in a password protected page. The password would be shared at PTA Meetings.