

PTO MEETING MINUTES
SEPT. 18, 2008

Meeting lead by Pres. Rebecca Tilden

Twenty three parents and faculty were present

INTRODUCTIONS

Rebecca Tilden (Pres.) introduced the executive committee, Jenny Mayher, Vice Pres., LeAnn Harris, Sec., Kati Hunt, Tres.. Parents and faculty introduced themselves.

DISCUSSION

1. Review of the goals of PTO
 - a. Increase communication with parents and faculty.
 - i. Creation of parent directory and e-mail lists
 - ii. Information provided on GSB web site
 - b. Fund raising
 - i. Currently, only two major events are planned for the year
 1. Jog-a-thon in the fall. Angelina Waltz will chair the Jog-a-Thon. Her goal is to raise enthusiasm and increase participation. It is our biggest fund raiser of the year. The date is Thursday, October 23.
 2. \$5.00 fund raiser in the spring. Each student is asked to bring in a \$5.00 donation.
 - c. Kids Helping Kids
 - i. Creation of a fund that will help children in need at GSB School. This would be a separate fund from the general PTO fund. Social workers and/or Mr. Boston and Ms. Schaff would identify children in need and request funds for example for snow boots, gloves, coats, sneakers, etc.. The items requested would be purchased and given directly to the children.
 - ii. Ideas to raise money for this fund were spare change jars in the classrooms and teachers lounge and a possible donation link on the web page.
 - iii. Jenny Mayher moved to start the fund with \$100.00 from the PTO account. Kati Hunt 2nd the motion. The motion passed.

2. Treasurer Report
 - a. PTO has a separate account at DB&T.
 - b. Current balance \$1058.96
 - c. Policy to request funds is on Web site, but PTO can be flexible depending on needs.

3. New Parent Dinner
 - a. Event scheduled for Thursday, October 2nd.
 - b. Pizza will be catered and parents are asked to bring a salad or dessert.
 - c. Flyers will be placed in Kindergarten students' folders for home.
 - d. Invitations will be sent out from the teachers to the parents of their students.

4. Greenhouse Committee Report
 - a. The greenhouse was started, the ground has been leveled. It will be located on the south facing side of the building and will be 16'X8'. Volunteers will begin putting in crushed stone and walls Saturday, Sept. 20. They will work every Saturday for 4 weeks and hopefully they will be finished.
 - b. All classes have plans to schedule activities to use the greenhouse after completion.
 - c. It was recommended that pictures be taken of the progress and be used to help solicit donations in the future.

5. Anna Barber Request
 - a. Anna Barber, Librarian, requested help with finding volunteers for the book fair, Friday, Oct. 17. She will be willing to split the money from the book fair with the PTO.
 - b. She also discussed taking a break from the Heiffer Read to Feed project this year. She hopes to continue participation in Unplug It Week.
 - c. Any volunteers for the library at any time would be greatly appreciated.

6. Coffee Meeting
 - a. It was discussed about having a parent 'Coffee' or 'Round Table' with Mr. Boston on a select morning. Mr. Boston is checking his schedule and will follow up at the next meeting.

PRESENTATION

Mrs. Hanna (1st & 2nd grade looping) and Mr. Hupp (5th grade) were asked to speak about “STARTING THE YEAR OFF RIGHT”. They gave a wonderful talk covering all ages of GSB.

Mrs. Hanna made several points concerning preparing young children for the new school year:

1. Getting ready...ask your child open ended questions about starting school. Ex. How do you feel about starting school? Avoid saying “Are you nervous?” This may make the child think more about being nervous than they really are.
2. Begin the ‘routine’ before school starts .Earlier bedtime and waking up. Explain what is expected of the child to get ready for school, the bus, pick up, etc. If there are any changes in the routine, explain the changes to the child so he/she know what to expect on any given day.
3. Take advantage of open houses. Come to school and see the room before school starts. Talk with the teacher and help the child feel comfortable.
4. Avoid morning negotiations. Stick to the routine and expectations.
5. Check backpacks for notes and updates. This will help you stay aware of what is happening in the classroom.
6. Schedule play dates with new and old classmates. This helps the child feel comfortable and familiar with his/her peers.
7. Keep a calendar of events. Help the child count down to special events, the weekend, the end of the month etc.
8. Communication...just talk to you child and stay involved.

Mr. Hupp followed with helpful hints for the parents of older children. He stressed these are just suggestions and can be used and interrupted differently for every child and household.

1. Communication...Talk to your **child**. What did you do today? How was your day? What did you do in math, etc.?
2. Communication...Talk to the **teachers and other parents**. Attend open houses and use e-mail to reach teachers with any concerns or general questions. Talk to other parents. Compare “notes” on how much homework is being sent home, when projects are due, etc. It can be amazing what you can find out.
3. Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe. A theme being used in GBS. It is working very well. A great tool to use at home as well. Watch your child’s actions and help them to apply them to the “motto”. NOBA is a notice of behavior action. It is used as a discipline/communication tool. Students are given warnings and on the final warning they receive a NOBA. This is sent home to the parents. Nobody wants a NOBA!

4. Honest time...When it is homework time, your child should be doing homework. To help make sure they are actually doing their work and not gazing out the window, do homework with your child. Have a comfortable place (other than their bedroom) where they can do their work. Just by being around you can help them focus and answer questions. Check to see if the homework is actually finished. When asked, most students will always say they are done. However, double check to make sure it is done **completely**.
5. On line homework help on Moodle. This is a future option being explored. Mr. Hupp will present more information at another time.

In summarizing the presentations, the common suggestion is to get involved and stay involved with your child. Open up communication and keep it flowing. Great job and big a “thank you” to both Mrs. Hanna and Mr. Hupp.

CLOSING

1. Ballot counters are needed for votes in January (consolidation) and May (budget).
2. Future presentation suggestions: Testing, Moodle Demo/Power School, Bullying, Babysitter info./exchange night.
3. Next PTO meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 6:00.