

El Sierra PTA Meeting

January 16, 2015

Minutes submitted by Laura Kamedulski

In attendance: Jason Lynde, Vann Bennett, Kim Stewart, Mary Loversky, Sue Carroll, Laura Kamedulski, Rose LaRue-Slater, Cinda Lester, Mary Spear, Sara Deacy, Marie Jackson, Theresa Stewart

Principal's Report: Mr. Lynde

1. Thank you for the Breakfast with Santa, the PTA should be proud of our community feeling and how well attended and well-run these events are.
2. MAP testing is almost finished this week -- we conduct it three times a year, May is the last one. Teachers will look at those scores on the upcoming institute day and they help us with small groups and the like. Kids know their scores, likely teachers will share with parents at conferences.
3. In the district, there's been some talk of offering full-day Kindergarten to schools that receive Title I funding, and El Sierra is one of those schools. Nothing is approved or decided especially as to the details, but this could happen in the future, and may even be tuition-based. State law now states that public schools must offer half-day Kindergarten.

Special Report by Mary Loversky: One Book, One School

1. As discussed earlier via email, El Sierra will try a "One Book, One School" program this year. Since we have such a wide range of ages of kids, we'll pilot this new program with the intermediate grades, but we can offer it to 2nd grade parents and below. We'll likely have incentives like trivia questions and rubber duckies. We may alternate between a One Book event and Author's Fest every other year. Or we may try "One Author, One School" so you could have a younger kids' story and an older kids' story by the same author.
2. This year's selected book is *Rules* by Cynthia Lord, about a twelve year old girl with a brother who is autistic. She is sometimes embarrassed by his behavior, so she decides to make rules for him. She also befriends a kid with cerebral palsy. It offers good insights about how to take people for what they are inside. Each

chapter starts with a rule: “If it is too loud cover your ears, or ask the person to be quiet.”

3. As discussed and approved earlier, we will use PTA funds of \$800 left over from Author Fest budget, plus we might share some costs with Puffer school. We may participate in a special program at Puffer with different stations such as a therapy dog, a person doing sign language, braille cards with words, and a musical therapist. This event might cost only \$150 from from each school. This One Book One School event will be after Reading Games, and after the Family Reading Night, in late spring.

Teacher’s Report: Mr. Bennett

1. Young Authors info went out
2. Reading fluency testing was also this week, and results will guide teachers with reading groups
3. 1/23 end of the quarter, report cards soon after
4. Science Fair is 1/24
5. 2/11 and 2/12 Parent Teacher Conferences
6. Assemblies: SCARCE was here for 1st and 2nd grades yesterday, upper grades soon. Topic is water and the conservation of water, to get the SCARCE water flag (we already have the earth flag).
7. Theresa brought up rain barrels — SCARCE will give us a free one, but rain barrels would fill immediately from our building so are not practical?
8. Variety Show date is 3/25

President’s Report: Rose LaRue-Slater

1. Nominations or interest in officer positions: Most of the officers will return for next year, but are open to others to run or to be a co- as next year will be the last year for several of them.
2. Committee chairs: Rose is beginning to ask if committee chairs will return next year or if others have interest
3. Author Fest at the District Council is coming in \$2400 under Budget this year
4. Our **Executive Board meeting** tentatively **Thursday, 2/19 at 7 pm** at Rose’s house

5. Memorial fund/Sunshine fund: Rose proposed and all approved that the PTA will give \$100 to family of PM Kindergartener (in the form of a gift card from Shop and Save) where mother unexpectedly died.

1st VP of Family Programs: Sue Carroll

1. At the Breakfast with Santa event, \$5 per family this year and no tickets worked so well! Took in a little over \$500, and spent a little over \$400; breakfast was donated and an improvement.
2. Roller skating party Thursday 2/5, 5:30-8:00 pm at USA Skate in Romeoville; flier soon
3. Kim Stewart reported out that the plans are in place to have a Family Feud game and a Live Auction for Game Night, Friday, March 13th, 7 pm. We have a DJ who runs the game. Teachers have been asked to donate experiences for the students and other donations for auction or raffle are coming in (donations welcome). Save the date flier and regular flier coming soon.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Spear

1. Mary passed around the actual to-date expenses and income statement.
2. What do teachers, staff, admin, parents want? Start thinking about this wish list that the PTA may be able to provide after Game Night.

Committee Reports

Caine's Arcade & Yearbook: Cinda Lester

1. Caine's Arcade will be held in the gym on Valentine's Day Saturday 2/14 from 1-3 pm. Since it is now a stand alone event without Fall Fest, if no one builds we won't know until that day, but should at least have kids that build at school. Cinda needs help the day of the program and for Tuesday and Thursday lunch-time builds for kids who can't easily build at home. Please send in your cardboard and other items for lunch-time builders to use!
2. Please download Pictavo app and upload photos for the yearbook!

Box Tops

There is a spring submission deadline approaching. Rose will ask WinLynn Lin to send in our supply, Theresa will help if need be.

Supply Kits

Kim Stewart reported on the company she found for our offering: Schoolkidz, a Staples Company — supply kits will be delivered to your home and seem easy to order.

Career Day

We will not hold one this year, we decided in an earlier meeting to hold it every other year -- next one April 2016.

Reflections (Post-meeting addendum: Laura Kamedulski)

1. The Reflections Regional Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 29 at 7 pm at Herrick School and four El Sierra students made it to that level: Joe Grippo, Lukas Kamedulski, Jordan Stewart, and Gracie Swierczynski. Parents will be notified of April date.
2. We were just notified that two students from El Sierra will advance to the State Reflections: Gracie Swierczynski, 3rd grade, for artwork “The World is in Our Hands” and Lukas Kamedulski, 4th grade, for his dance mix “I Like Vegetables.”
3. When Reflections projects are taken down from display in El Sierra, we need to return all of them to the students, so please let PTA know when this will happen so we can help.