

Edgewood PTA Meeting Minutes

April 19th, 2016

Attendees: Ali Megan, Amelia Reising, Melissa Vaughan, Tanya Bunson, Robin Detmer, Gayle Sawyer, Susan Ventura, Susan Carey, Jill Mina, Michelle Stecher, Anna Galas, Rob Drummond, Beth Casper, David NT, Melysa Romstad, Susan Ventura (teacher), Farrah Summers-Blake (teacher), Becky LeDuc (teacher), Larry Williams (principal).

[Meeting minutes taken by David NT].

1. Introductions
2. Meeting Minutes: David makes a motion to approve meeting minutes from last meeting, Gayle seconds the motion. Meeting minutes from 3/15/16 pass unanimously by group vote.
3. Green Team: Jill mentions that this Friday is Earth Day. Green Team bought a rain barrel for school, discussed their plans for a Green Team presence at Fun Night, and reminder to the group that Bike, Walk or Run to School day is coming up soon.
4. Fun Run: Anna announced that Friday 10/7/16 is the date for Fun Run in Fall. They are looking to further develop their committee. Group discussion about prizes for Fun Run, elicited suggestions, maybe having someone in charge of prizes, lunch with Larry and Larry costume was popular, brainstorming ideas to motivate students and try to get classes' 100% participation.
5. Teacher's Report: Becky mentioned there's lots of science going on related to the school garden, Susan Ventura said that classes are enjoying the outdoors. Farah discussed 1st grade enjoying the artist in residence, enjoying the recycling art, "bugs" theme, focusing on insects, it's poetry month so they're writing poetry using "movement words". 3rd grade is doing their Spring Science kit, freeze dried bees on a stick that they use to pollenate, 2nd grade are doing bird projects, 4th/5th finished their endangered species unit, now working on Revolutionary War.
6. Principal's Report: Larry discussed that the school is moving away from using Lifetouch for school photos, looking at a local artist/photographer, can potentially do more by being local and available in ways Lifetouch isn't able to. Larry talked about some new means of focusing on the importance of "play" at school, supporting primarily Kindergarten and 1st grade, supporting students to develop and increase play and communication skills and increased movement in their school day. Many aspects in state standards that will help guide and to measure development in this area. Looking at extending the actual play area. Staff next year will be looking at "Mindset", a book/program that focuses on supporting increased flexibility in thinking for students.
7. Presentation: Becky and Susan Ventura present to the group on "blue blocks" play and learning materials from Imagination Playground, which are building blocks aimed at increasing collaborative and constructive play: great potential for increased gross motor skills, good for imagination, collaboration, cooperation, counting, communication, visual/spatial, great multiuse resource, loose and adaptable rather than fixed/stationary, there is an opportunity to win them and Susan Ventura submitted an application, looking to acquire the large ones, asked the PTA to consider funding the blocks, approximate cost of \$4000.
8. Fun Night: Gayle mentions that Fun Night is well underway, there are many new prizes this year, two food trucks, volunteers have been re-painting the carnival displays, cakes being donated from Sweet Life, Gayle asked David to help with coordinating and overseeing Fun Night volunteers. Gayle reminded that people can still go online to sign up to volunteer. Robin mentioned that the silent auction is going well, could use the help of a couple more people the night of the event. Gayle reminds that classroom baskets still need donations and still need items.
9. Field Day: Michelle looking for someone else to coordinate next year, reminder that Field Day is a collaborative event with the PE teacher. Tentative date for this year's Field Day is Tuesday 6/14/16.
10. OBOB: Susan Carey stated that students worked very hard. Bree not on committee next year, but Susan already has two other helpers lined up.
11. Officer Elections: David mentioned that election of new PTA officers will soon take place, provided an overview of the positions and encouraged others to consider taking on those officer positions next year, if interested. Gayle reminds the group that a new Fun Night coordinator will also be needed.

12. Initiative Petition 65: Robin presents on "IP65" that will be on November's election ballot, handed out informational brochure on IP65.
13. Reading Olympics: Becky talked about and provided an overview of "Reading Olympics", proposing it be considered as a future fundraiser for Edgewood. Becky discussed how Reading Olympics is a pledge-based fundraising event that is focused on reading accomplishments. Group discussion about whether it would replace another fundraiser like Direct Donation Drive. Gayle makes a motion to replace Edgewood's Direct Donation Drive with Reading Olympics next school year, Melysa seconds the motion. Passes unanimously by group vote.
14. Meeting ended