

GEAC Minutes
November 6, 2007

Notes taken by Lisa Gilbert, Secretary

The Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM at the home of Angel Averman in Woodinville by President-elect Paul Meehan. Meeting consisted of a Business Meeting followed by a Meet and Greet for parent classroom representatives.

Attendees:

Board Meeting: Paul Meehan, Lisa Gilbert, Mary Wictor, Laura Johnston, Angel Averman

Approved October minutes.

President's Report (Paul Meehan): no report

Treasurer's Report (Laura Johnston):

- October income was \$3,619.18 including \$2,340 for parenting class, \$1,035 in donations, \$220 from Brainstuffers sales and \$24.18 in company matches.
- October expenses were \$2,807.20, including \$2,398.20 for parenting class, \$399 for knowledge bowl, and \$10 for WA state license.
- \$2,559.74 company matches are in the works
- Total income for the current year is now \$5,980.96.
- We should have enough to fund the grant program for \$5,000 to \$6,000
- Donations and fundraising to date are near to the minimum goal for funding a GEAC Grant, however, GEAC needs to continue asking for donations to ensure fulfillment and overall Quest program support
- Upcoming fundraising opportunity at Jr. High Quest Information Night December 13

Advocacy Committee Report (Raj Paul): no report

Outreach Committee Report (Angel Averman):

- Need to develop a standard template for monthly email that is sent out by Pam McBain
- Suggestion made to entitle the email GEAC News Corner
- Email should go out 10 days prior to each meeting
- Target date for completion of meeting minutes is 10 days after the meeting for approval prior to monthly email distribution
- Monthly email will provide a summary in body of message and will have attachments with further details including minutes of past meeting
- About half of the teachers have elected to send out their own messages, rather than use parent representatives

- Added link to website for teacher's websites (Manegold and Bloomquist)
- Will post Choice School dates on GEAC Calendar, possibly in a different font or gray scale
- Suggested that Pam McBain ask Cindy Lundvall to provide any important dates to add to calendar (AP night?)

Enhancement Committee Report (Mary Wictor): no report

Other Topics:

Brain Sports Forum

- Will be deferred until January so that Robotics group can demonstrate their robotics challenge after the State competition in December.
- Possible dates are January 10 and 17. Need to check dates with presenters
- Mary Wictor is developing a template for a written document describing each Brain Sport
- Power Point will be available
- Forum will include four 15-minute consecutive presentations (Math Club, Robotics, Chess Club, Destination Imagination) with ½ hour at the end for questions
- Will first try to get LWSD Resource Center. If not available, will look at schools

Next Board Meeting will be at the LWSD on December 5.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Meet and Greet for Classroom Parent Representatives:

Attendees (in addition to Board members): Gretchen Colonius (Thoreau), Mia Wall (Franklin), Tracy Jaffe (Rosa Parks), Yuki Cheng (Einstein), Cathy Wang (Einstein), Baskar Narayanan (Alcott), Jeanne Acutanza (Franklin), Bob and Amy MacRae (Einstein)

Chaired by Paul Meehan, Presedent-elect

Introductions - Who GEAC is and what we do.

- Role of the classroom representatives.
- Described GEAC as the PTSA of the gifted program.
- Discussed the grant program and teacher distributions.
- GEAC organization - three pronged approach – Outreach, Enhancement, Advocacy

Feedback provided by the parent representatives:

1. Students are leaving the District for Bellevue due to weakness in math curriculum. Math is not differentiated in Quest, and there is too much repetition. Many parents are required to supplement at home or in math clubs. Response – parents can provide input on this in a survey that GEAC will send out (see below)
2. Some classes are not hearing about GEAC and have not received any requests for money. Example – Franklin 5/6 class. Response – Will make registration form available by email and website. Personal communication and distribution of this information is one goal of the classroom parent representatives.
3. Changing Quest sites brings up the question of whether the District is committed to the Quest program. Reponse - the District remains committed to the Quest program and the changing sites are to provide space for those who qualify.
4. For first time parents, the Welcome to Quest night is too early. Response – the information presented at the Welcome to Quest nights will also be posted on LWSD website.
5. Does GEAC still have school representatives? Response – GEAC still needs one contact person per school. It would be great to have their name and contact information listed on the GEAC website. It was suggested that Pam McBain solicit names from the database to volunteer for this role.
6. Survey will be sent out to Quest parents:
 - a. What things are working
 - b. What things could be improved
 - c. Suggested topics for forums

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.