

GEAC Minutes
November 5, 2008

Notes taken by Lisa Gilbert and Debbie Napolitan, co-secretaries

The Meeting was called to order at 6:31pm by Paul Meehan, President, at LWSD Resource Center.

Present – Paul Meehan, Raj Paul, Gretchen Colonius, Jodi Gaertner, Angel Averman, Carolyn Benson, Lisa Gilbert, Debbie Napolitan, Kim Cashon-Smith, Kimberly Ozuk, Mia Wall, Dr. Cindy Lundvall, and Sandy Malone-Long. Eleven other parents were in attendance.

Director's Report – by Dr. Cindy Lundvall

- Elementary Quest Information Night for new parents at Rose Hill Junior High Nov. 6 at 7pm. There will be teachers from both the pull-out and full time programs, plus Sandy Malone-Long will address the assessment process. Paul Meehan will tape the presentation.
- Additional students added to the Thoreau ½ class as discussed last meeting to retain this class.
- This year's goal is to keep Quest elementary program stable this year as there were many movements last year.
- Quest office is taking steps to stabilize and increase enrollment in the Juanita learning community through steps such as working with principals in these elementaries to identify students who are candidates for the program. Also trying to improve ways to improve contact with parents
- New Quest brochure available at the district
- Parents with students in Thoreau's ½ class voiced concerns over process and qualifications of additional students. All students will need to score appropriately on the CoGAT for priority placement in the program.

Treasurer's Report - Carolyn Benson

- Treasurer's report presented
- How does GEAC meet \$15,000 fundraising goal? Suggestion to go back to classrooms for a "fund a need"

Approve prior meeting minutes

- Minutes from last month approved.

Topic – School Representatives

- Gretchen Colonius, Thoreau
- Kim Cashon-Smith, Ben Rush
- Kimberly Ozuk, Sandburg
- Mia Wall, Franklin

- School representatives facilitate the dissemination of a two-way flow of information. They bring up issues for schools and forward information back to the parents and teachers.

Advocacy– Jodi Gaertner

- The Basic Education Finance Task Force will be presenting their final report to the Legislature in December/January. It looks like highly capable programs will become a part of basic education. The Washington Coalition for Gifted Education encourages parents to contact their representatives, speaking to the unique needs of highly capable kids and how to continue to meet these needs.
- Gifted Education day in Olympia is February 6, 2009. See www.waetag.net for more information.
- We'll have contact info for legislative reps on the GEAC website in the near future

Topic - Junior High

- Feeder area to Redmond Jr. High Quest has nearly 100 6th grade Quest students (currently 26 6th graders at Smith, 27 at Alcott, approx 15 at Red El, plus full pull-out classroom at Mead), far exceeding the 30 seats at RJH. Evergreen and Inglewood are too full to add program/class.
- Inglewood Junior High provides differentiated teaching within the classroom & then extra challenge work. Propose GEAC talk to IJH about options for students in their attendance area.
- Paul Meehan, Lisa Gilbert, Jodi Gaertner (advocacy). Angel Averman, Debbie Napolitan, Monika Tracy, sub-group for study.

Topic-Brain Sports

- Successful forum October 23. Math team, Chess, Destination Imagination, Academic Games. Around 70 attendees from around the District
- Recommendation to do again next year.
- Ronica Wilson, teacher from Kamiakin helped with Academic Games. Motion to give her a gift card to Barnes & Noble. Motion to give Jamba Juice gift cards to the two students who helped her.

Topic-Communications

- Goal is two emails per month – one follow-up email including minutes, plus an email around a week before the next meeting.
- Special announcements, such as Brain Sports, will be emailed around a week before the scheduled event as a separate email.

Topic-Busing Update

- If students waiting for a bus are NOT being supervised, go to school office and request supervision. If the school cannot provide supervision, then call the Quest office with the concern.
- If specific bus and/or specific driver is consistently late, call transportation office.

Next meeting

- Sandy Malone-Long will be talking about twice exceptional students.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.