

GEAC Minutes
October 1, 2008

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

The Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Paul Meehan, President, at LWSD Resource Center.

Present – Paul Meehan, Mary Victor, Lisa Gilbert, Debbie Napolitan, Carolyn Bensen, Gretchen Colonius, Pam McBain, Raj Paul, Cindy Lundvall, Sandy Malone-Long. 10 other parents were in attendance, including three school representatives.

Director's Report – by Cindy Lundvall

- Parent question – Bus to and from Franklin has been late. Who is responsible/accountable for children waiting for the Quest bus? Answer: Problem is currently resolved with hiring of permanent driver. Parents should call Quest school to see if bus has left. Call the transportation office. Work with feeder school to ensure students are supervised. Call the Quest office if issues remain. One GEAC member suggested having GEAC sponsor parent representatives at schools in the first few weeks of school.
- Kamiakin 8th grade class – parent question. Why were available spots not offered to students at other junior highs? Answer: If there are other interested students at other schools, they should contact the Quest office as soon as possible. Quest office does look at students who just missed testing cutoff. Transportation if this is not the student's home school is the student's responsibility.
- Thoreau program – Dr. Lundvall continues to try to grow this program. There are some spots open in lower grades, which may be filled by other students. The policy regarding which student has priority – a student who tests in vs. a student who did not go through formal testing but is currently in the classroom – is being evaluated.
- President-elect Raj Paul affirmed GEAC's commitment to help LWSD continue to improve the Quest program, and asked Dr. Lundvall to consider priorities and needs that GEAC can help with.
- Dr. Lundvall is working with principals to identify additional students for testing, especially in underrepresented student populations. Systemic efforts are being made to educate teachers how to identify gifted students and also to communicate with parents.
- Parent question – how much does it cost for gifted programs? Dr. Lundvall stated there are costs for the support of the program, plus qualification testing costs. There are also additional transportation costs.
- A question about the plan(s) for increasing capacity at the junior highs to align with population growth was deferred to a later meeting.

Topic – Elementary Information Night in November

- November 6 at Rose Hill Jr. High
- Information will be on the website

- Suggestion to videotape the presentation for later access by parents who can't make or are not informed in time for this meeting, especially parents of kindergarteners.

Topic – AP Testing results

- Results from testing show more students are taking the tests, and performance remains comparable.

Prior meeting minutes

- Minutes from last month approved.

Treasurer's Report –

- Request an email to prior GEAC contributors to ask for an annual donation.
- Motion to delete conference funding of \$1000 from this year's budget. Approved.
- Motion to increase funding goal to \$15,000 to cover current year budgeted expenditures. Approved.
- Motion to approve budget as modified. Approved.

Outreach –Pam McBain

- Paypal update – research is ongoing, and a few issues remain. Further discussion deferred to next meeting.

Topic – Brain Sports

- October 23rd 6:30-8:30pm at RJH
- Format will be short presentation of each brain sport, followed by simultaneous demonstrations. Additional information will be provided in handouts.

Topic – Spelling & Geography Bees

- Parent volunteered to provide information about bees. Will provide information and/or links for the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.