

GILL ELEMENTARY PTA GENERAL MEETING

October 13, 2008

Present: See attached sign-in sheet

Open meeting: The meeting was called to order by President Kristin Ebling at 7:00.

Old Business: Kristin Ebling invited comments about the PTA's 2008-2009 Goals and Objectives that were presented last month - none were voiced. She also reminded the meeting participants of the feedback mechanism available via the Suggestion Box.

Secretary's Report: Marianne Rinker introduced the school calendar. Each month, revisions will be made available, and the calendar will be kept current on the website. The minutes of the September 2008 meeting were also presented. **Motion made by Denise O'Rourke, seconded by Tracie Schrand, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**

Principal's Report: Mr. Morawski will present the Annual Report at next month's meeting. He discussed plans for students to learn about the electoral process, and participate by voting in a mock presidential election. The MEAP schedule was reviewed, and plans for snacks for each session provided by the PTA.

Praise vs. Encouragement - Mr. Morawski provided a thought-provoking informational segment on current research on the pitfalls of "praise" and the benefits of "encouragement". As we raise and educate our children, research suggests praise is judgemental, vague and self-limiting. Encouragement, on the other hand, has been shown to foster self-efficacy and the belief that intellect can be gained through effort. See attached presentation handouts.

Student Council Report: Kristin Ebling reported that Gill will be participating in Drug Awareness Week this week by offering bracelets, water bottles and flying discs for (\$2) purchase on Oct 16 and 17.

Kristin also discussed the outreach efforts of our district (originating at the high school level) to build and staff a Promise School in the Sudan. There will be a 75 minute walk-a-thon held at Harrison High School on Sunday Oct 26 for this very worthy cause. Anyone interested and available that day should see Kristin for more detail.

Budget: David Boyce presented the budget, and specific income from the Mini-Marathon. Following final adjustments, the fundraiser will have earned about \$17000. **Motion made by Dave Boyce, seconded by Denise O'Rourke to approve the budget. Motion carried.**

By-Laws: Dave Roggenkamp presented the bylaws and suggested revisions in the areas of Membership, Nominating Committee, Treasurer's Responsibilities, and PTA Council Representation. By-laws were made available to all members for their perusal. These amendments

are changes in the wording of the bylaws to reflect our current practices. **Motion made by Sue Wolter to approve the by-laws, seconded by Marianne Rinker. Motion carried.**

Committee Report Outs:

- Health and Wellness - Tracie Schrand has scheduled the Flu Clinic for Nov 11, from 3-7pm. Vaccines will be \$30 each.
- Beautification - Sue Wolter reminded us of the Fall Clean-Up, scheduled for Nov 8 from 9 -noon. Bring your rakes and gloves!
- Fundraising - Jessica Daniels provided information on the Cash Back for Kids program, which provides on-line shopping, coupons, prescription cards, and more - check it out! See attached flyer.
- Social - Science Night - Oct 27 - Dave Roggenkamp reported that this will be a fun evening of science activity provided by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Children's Museum from 6 - 8pm. Dave is looking for volunteers to be on-site that evening.
- Social - Zap Zone Family Nights - Kristin Ebling announced that the first Family Night will be held on Nov 17, to include 3 hours of various activities at a discounted price. Stay tuned for more details next month! (Another Family Night will be held on March 5.)
- Membership/Directory - Sue Wolter reported that 85% of the membership goal has been met. Bonnie Marks stated that the Directory will be printed on Oct 20. Meeting participants were reminded that the Directory is still free to all student families, and a cover letter encouraging PTA membership will be given out with each yearbook.
- Destination Imagination - David Boyce will manage the team this year, and has a meeting of interested participant family members scheduled for after school on Oct 16.
- Junior Great Books/Word Masters -Krisitn Ebling is organizing volunteers for these Enrichments.
- Math Pentathlon - Charlotte Jackson has received 151 registrations for this! The practice sessions will be held over lunchtime, and will begin this week.
- Math Olympiads - will begin early November.
- Reflections - informational packets were distributed this week by Christle Thompson. Entries are due Nov. 3. Entries will be on display during the Nov. parent-teacher conferences.

FPS District Council : The next meeting will be held at the Maxfield Training Center on Monday Nov 3 at 7pm. There will be updates from various elementary schools on Fun Run events, and Gill will present a summation of the the Mustang Mini-Marathon. Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting!

Motion to adjourn made by Denise O'Rourke, seconded by Jessica Daniel. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:40.