

KES PTO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2010 - final

Attending: Jonathan Kaplan, Terry Costin, Mary Gaza, Chrystine Vance Homer, Celeste Potash, Payal Yusaf, Nicole Stumbo, Renee Fassert, Alexandra Williams, Sara Beame. *Absent:* Enid Linden, Judy McCormick. There were approximately 25 PTO members present.

Principal Jonathan Kaplan opened the meeting with **welcoming** remarks. Mr. Kaplan remarked that it has been a great start to the new school year at KES and that the bus delays that occurred the first week of school are currently being worked out. PTO Co-Presidents Mary Gaza and Chrystine Homer **introduced** themselves, as did all PTO Executive Board members.

The **June 16, 2010 minutes** were approved.

Payal Yusaf gave the **Treasurer's Report** as of August 31, 2010. For 2009-2010, ASA earned \$16,000 profit, while it was budgeted to make \$9,000. The Enrichment Committee met their budget for 2009-2010. Moving Up Day exceeded its budget for 2009-2010 because the helium tank, which is used for many different events, needed to be refilled. There are not yet final numbers for the Spring Book Fair and the Brick fundraiser. To date, directory sales for 2010-2011 are projected to exceed budget by \$1,000. The Committee has made a big push to promote sales of the online directory. At this time, 100 families have not signed up for the online directory.

Some committee chairs who were present gave **Committee Reports**. Libby Parker discussed the Holiday Boutique, which will take place this year on November 19. The Holiday Shoppe will be part of the Holiday Boutique this year, instead of taking place during school hours. Additional volunteers are needed to handle the Holiday Shoppe. Jocelyn Kester suggested the PTO charge a lower fee for High School students who want to purchase a table to sell their goods at the Boutique. Moira Thielking discussed Do The Write Thing, which is a writing workshop for fourth and fifth graders that occurs every other year in March. Moira requested that if anyone knows a writer in the community who would want to run a workshop this year to please contact her. Rina Pollak mentioned that Innisbrook is in full swing and requested everyone to please place their orders. LB Gilman discussed that silent auction items are still needed for the Halloween Fair.

Mary Gaza read the **Certificates of Appreciation**.

KLSD Board of Education Vice President Mark Lipton attended the meeting to discuss **District Plans**. According to Mr. Lipton the two largest issues facing the district this year are the Long Range Plan and the 2011-2012 budget. Regarding the Long Range Plan, Mr. Lipton advised that the district administration will give the BOE recommendations as to how to educate our children going forward in a changing world. The district plans to move away from teaching to tests and focus on teaching skills. Tony Wagner's book, The Global Achievement Gap, is providing the framework for the plan.

Regarding the 2011-2012 school year budget, Mr. Lipton advised that there will be significant changes to the budget process this year. Traditionally, the Superintendent puts forth a budget in February, the community gives input regarding the budget at that time to the BOE and then the BOE adopts a budget to be presented to the voters in May. According to Mr. Lipton this process has been successful in the past when the economy has been good. Under the current economic circumstances, it was believed that a different process was warranted. Under the new process, the Superintendent's budget will essentially be the budget presented to the voters in May. As a result, the BOE is seeking community input on the budget in advance of the Superintendent putting forth his budget in February. There will be two community budget forums in October. At BOE meetings between October and February there will be open discussions about the budget. If community members want to participate

in the budget process this year, it must be done in this new time frame. According to Mr. Lipton, the 2011-2012 budget will be a very lean budget. There is an enormous increase in state mandated ERS/TRS retirement contributions for next year.

In response to a question, Mr. Lipton discussed the search for a new district Superintendent. The district has hired a consulting/search firm and has been advised that there is a good pool of candidates. The district will seek to hire the new Superintendent as of July 1, 2011 which will create a need for an Interim Superintendent.

Chrystine Homer discussed revisions to the **PTO bylaws**. A bylaws committee met last Spring and has proposed certain revisions to the PTO bylaws (see attached) which were circulated to the general membership. A motion was made to approve the revisions, which was seconded, all were in favor, none were opposed and the motion carried.

Payal Yusuf discussed a proposed **revision to the 2010-2011 PTO budget**. The Greenhouse budget needs to be increased to \$12,600 from \$9,500 due to an anticipated decrease in BOCES funding. A motion was made to revise the 2010-2011 PTO budget as such, which was seconded, all were in favor, none were opposed and the motion carried.

Terry Costin discussed KES' **Character Education Goals** for the year. Much discussion this year will center on the book Have You Filled Your Bucket Today? The Character Education committee has chosen as its slogan/theme for the year, "KES Making A Difference." The goal is to teach kids a personal responsibility to themselves, their classmates, their families, friends and globally as well. The goal is to create caring, responsible, sensitive citizens. Other efforts include Be Your Best Recognition awards and giving out bookmarks to students who return a signed Code of Conduct. Terry Costin will be providing monthly Character Education articles for Chalkboard (see attached for September article).

Jonathan Kaplan discussed **School Safety, Building and District Goals**. Mr. Kaplan encouraged all parents to attend BOE meetings and provide feedback. The Long Range Plan will be presented to the BOE by the administration before January. Mr. Kaplan mentioned that K-6 schools are being considered as a possibility by the district as well as the elimination of teaming. Regarding school safety, Mr. Kaplan advised that all external doors to the building are locked and staff members now have swipe cards to enter the building. The building annual crisis meeting has occurred. There are lock down procedures in place in the event an intruder enters the building. Mr. Kaplan reminded parents of the importance of signing in upon entering the building. If KES loses power students will be transported to the Middle School. There will be an emergency evacuation drill on October 15. No bus notes will be honored that day.

Mary Gaza discussed **open PTO committees**. It was noted that the PTO remains without a chair for the KES PTO Chronicle. Without a committee chair, the Chronicle will not be published this year.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Sara Beame.