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ADAMS PTA MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2009 | 6:30 pm | Adams Elementary

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Jen Engelke | PTA President | 6:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

See the attached sign-in sheet.

OLD BUSINESS UPDATES

See the attached Update Memo.

WORKING AGENDA TOPICS

GOALS

Open discussion

- Mission Statement: *Growing and supporting an artistic and diverse academic community*
- How will the PTA work toward this goal (the Mission Statement)?
- The three main areas for PTA activities: fundraising, academic, community. Academic and community events are supported by fundraising events.
- Programs/events for this year:
 - All school drama program or School House Rock musical
 - Dance activities program
 - More arts-based after school programs
- It was discussed that the Adams PTA needs to add/define the middle layer between the Mission Statement Goal and the events/activities to support that goal.

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- Another goal of the Adams PTA is to be a voice for children and families.
- It was discussed that it is also necessary to define arts-integrated education.
 - What does it mean?
 - How is it accomplished?
 - Could some of the extra PTA funds be spent on an artist in residence, or an artist for a drama program?
 - Adams may have artists training the teachers this year with the Arts Impact program. This may include movement and performance.
 - The PTA members would also like information about the art program in which the teachers are currently enrolled.
- This year, another goal of the PTA is to connect community resources with needs of the school/activities.
 - City of Seattle positive blogging space, might be a good way for kids to connect to art and technology/computers, could put their own pictures/artwork in the blogging space
 - Bring/supply kits of digital and video cameras for the kids to check out and use for projects; A/V club!; school already has a program that kids can use to edit images/videos; need to be careful with the “space” chosen for children (such as online realms)
 - It might be helpful to share and market the Adams PTA activities and accomplishments with/to donors.
 - Another goal is to pull the community into the school: library cards, health fair, bike safety, etc.
 - One suggestion was the rooftop garden at Bastille Café. This would be an educational gardening experience for students; might include taking classes, or helping the cafe with their garden; an out of the classroom science learning experience
 - Use the Facebook page to connect families at Adams, will help build the community as well
- Support the school levies – The PTA needs to help pass the levies. They supply about 25% of the funds for schools.
 - This could also be an educational opportunity for children to learn about the political process.
 - Connect to schools first and other political education groups that already exist.
- Improve PTA/School/Teacher information and event coordination and communication.
 - Examples include: choir concerts, assemblies, young writers, science management, dance for the kids, movie night, bunko night, arts career day, etc.
 - Coordinate communication/alerts for events
 - Easy and simple social events that take few volunteers to pull off

- The PTA needs to submit these goals to the membership for feedback. Betsy will help Susan with this effort.
- Fundraising should be driven by the events the Adams PTA wants to present.
- Auction dates — 3/13 Silent, 3/30 Live Auction — Both are scheduled two months earlier than last year. This was in part to assist with procurement issues. Both events will be at the same venues, and we'll have the same silent auctioneer.

GRADE REPRESENTATIVE ROLE/PURPOSE

Dr. Johnson wants to meet w/grade reps quarterly

What is the vision for the Grade Representative role?

The Grade Representative should:

- Address needs of the grades
- Classroom reps vs. grade reps - This year Adams has grade reps, not classroom reps.
- Face-to-face communication is as necessary as email and online communication
- Grade reps feed information from the school and PTA to the grades and also recruit volunteers
- Gather feedback on PTA events from the parents
- All PTA members (not just board members) can help talk to community members and get people involved, at whatever level they're interested in being involved
- The PTA also needs to reach out to those who may not be accessible through the usual channels; might need to call, or use other than face-to-face means; ask teachers who those folks might be
- Another suggestion is to use different presentation means (visual presentation, posters, etc.) to improve attendance at events
- Put photos of each grade representative in the newsletter and/or on the Adams web site to help parents recognize them
- Curriculum night and other community events are an opportunity to connect with parents who are not able to come to school daily
- Present events and opportunities to parents from a *Come be involved in the Adams community* perspective rather than a *The PTA wants you to volunteer* perspective.
- Is there funding for translators for school and PTA events?
 - The school has a good connection with Ms. Mendoza and the Spanish speaking community, but not the other languages in the community.
 - There is a Somali instructional assistant at the school, but he is not willing to donate his time for translation. Could some of the PTA budget money be used to fund him to help translate?

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- The important dates in the newsletter will be translated.
- Could the PTA buy translated books for non-English speaking families for the *Adams Reads the Same Book* event?
- Could the Somali assistant offer some information about who else might be able to help with translations? Betsy has information through her company.
- Perhaps some of the Somali families who do speak English could be asked to help those who don't.

NEWSLETTER DISCUSSION

- What should be included in the newsletter?
 - The newsletter team has received requests for book readings, after care programs, and other similar events.
 - If it is not a PTA event, it cannot be included in the PTA Newsletter, due to space constraints.
 - There is a community partners space on the web page for information about non-PTA events
- Newsletter delivery solutions
(Facebook page, paper options, community partners portion of the web site)
- Weekly newsletters include short blurbs of information. Information for the weekly newsletter is due on Tuesdays. Newsletters are also dispersed on Tuesdays.
- Monthly newsletters include more information than do the weekly newsletters. The deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 29th of each month.
- Newsletters will be electronically dispersed to those who request to receive them electronically, and will be printed for those who want printed copies. The first couple of weeks everyone will receive printed copies until the database of contact information is updated with the new contact information for the year.
- The Google calendar is now available on the Adams web site. It includes events for the entire year.
- There was a discussion of how the way the dispersal of information might be changed. One suggestion was to put forms, etc on the web site.
- There was also a suggestion to add a newsletter item about what went home in the PTA packet and a reminder about returning the forms.

COMPOSTING

On Friday 9/18 at 3:15, a meeting will be held in the lunch room to discuss the composting programs. This will be a ½ hour meeting with childcare provided. The composting program must have a teacher from one of the older grade levels (4th or 5th) to participate in the composting program. It must be a student-based/student run program.

A message about the composting meeting will be posted on Facebook, and Wendy will also post it on the reader board.

BUDGET UPDATE

Due to time constraints, this topic was not discussed.

AGENDA TOPICS FOR 10/15 GENERAL MEETING

Due to time constraints, this topic was not discussed.

CLOSING

It was requested that all members in attendance please read the Update Memo for more information and also support the volunteer coordinators for the committees.

Regarding childcare at the PTA meetings – Please provide feedback on the experience to the PTA President (Jen E.) so it can be determined whether or not childcare will be offered at future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.