



# PTA Unit

# MINUTES

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October 4, 2013

- 1) Welcome
  - a. Call Meeting to Order – 6:40
  - b. Flag ceremony by Cub Scout Pack 318, Webelos I den
  - c. Approval of September Unit Meeting minutes – motion: Paul Wheeler, second: Stacy Strow. Approved.
  
- 2) President's Report – Marlow Sipes
  - a. Fundraising survey – will compile results and send them out so everyone can see the thoughts of the school.
  - b. Paul Wheeler, president of EIS Foundation – overview of the Foundation (in fairy tale form!)
  
- 3) Principal's Report – Belinda Baldwin
  - a. Construction update
    - i. Kindergarten rooms are getting close. Will give the kinder teachers fall break to get settled in if rooms are finished before hand.
    - ii. Will start construction on parking lot on the South side next week. Will also pour new sidewalks.
    - iii. The swingsets from the old school are not compliant. Some items from old playground may be moved but we don't know what yet.
    - iv. EIS parent and landscape architect, Karl Sfranski helped map out soccer fields, goals, basketball field, 300m track, etc. It will not all be done this year but we will aim to finish it all asap.
    - v. If any parent has any specific concerns/desires, please feel free to research costs, etc. and present to our board so we can bring it to the unit if need be. Money only goes so far but we want to do whatever we can.
    - vi. The big toy we have now is the district standard and all they were willing to give us. They are now looking in to moving components of the old playground. Nothing is certain.
    - vii. The Pre-K/Kinder fencing will be put in starting next week.
    - viii. Playground plans will be displayed per request.
    - ix. We will ask Karl to come up to discuss the plan at the next Unit meeting.
    - x. Send email to the PTA board if you have input, requests, etc.
  - b. Blue Ribbon School ceremony
    - i. 6 schools in OK and only 2 elementaries. We're the only one in Tulsa. Presidential honor. We are going to have a Blue Ribbon Week to celebrate with the kids during school.
    - ii. Once you're a blue ribbon school you are always a blue ribbon school. In order to apply, you have to be asked to apply. The application was 30+ pages typed single space. You can be nominated more than once and can receive it about 3 times. We are only the 2<sup>nd</sup> elementary in Tulsa ever to get it. Carnegie got it in 1987.
    - iii. Principal and 2-3 teachers will go to the national ceremony. Teachers nominated who they felt should be able to go, including self-nominations,



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---

and teachers voted. The teachers have not yet been told so cannot reveal who is going yet.

- iv. Oklahoma Reading Sufficiency Act – there is required testing for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders that we've always done. The district switched to a more comprehensive tool this year and it has been administered to k-3 already. We will have the results very soon and it will help us plan ahead for OCCTs. We are aware that our English reading results are artificially depressed due to immersion school. State Dept (talked with Barrisi & Dawson, who is over foreign language for the state) is aware and district is aware, too. We fought the new tests because they are in English and the younger kids haven't even learned to read in English yet. Some kids will have results for parent teacher conferences. What we typically see is a big jump between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades at EIS. Because of the new law, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who do not pass should be retained but EIS is fighting it based on our model. There is a committee of k-20 folks who are working on a portfolio to show that this law is unacceptable. We hope to know if an exception is made asap and we will let you know asap. We are testing now so that we can try and pick up the kids who are lagging and try to get them help immediately. **IF** we have a child lagging, we will provide tutoring, etc through the reading sufficiency plan. The teachers have had SRI training so we will be prepared to handle this issue if it comes up. PLEASE contact your state legislators and tell them that this law is unfair to immersion kids, English as a second language kids, shelter kids, etc.
  - v. Our OCCT scores looked lower from last year. It was actually a percentage of students and in this case it was literally 4 children who had already been identified as having special needs that are already being addressed. Those 4 children make the percentage look much larger than it is since our classes are so small. Teachers will desegregate the data when we have it so that they can address the areas where we have issues. Helpful tool for teachers. Scores that seem low as EIS parents/teachers aren't low compared to the rest of the population. We are hard on ourselves. Info is broken down by class, grade, specific objectives, etc. Makes it easy for teachers to identify areas of concern.
  - vi. Veteran teachers are coaching new teachers, subs are being provided to allow new teachers the opportunity to go into veteran teachers.
  - vii. Went through accreditation today and passed with no problem. We average our physical education time.
- 4) 1<sup>st</sup> VP/Communication – Rob Wright
- a. Contact him directly if you're having trouble with your yahoo groups or receiving constant contact. Rob@Rob-Wright.com
- 5) 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Volunteers – Lisa Albers
- a. Class photographers – almost complete
  - b. No-Brainer Chair – let us know if you'd like to help us handle fundraisers that are NOT events.



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- 6) Treasurer – Chris Rankin
  - a. Current Financials – finances are in line with what we expected them to be. No abnormalities thus far. Info in the directory and he will try to get back to you within 24 hours.
  
- 7) Membership – currently 277 members of the PTA. Goal by the end of October is to have one member per household minimum. Virginia Gleason – please hit kinder parents again. Don't remember seeing any info come home.
  
- 8) New Business
  - a. Music request for funding – \$2300 requested to help offset the cost of add-ons for orff instruments. She will use \$1000 of her \$1500 line item. Will allow her to bring jazz into the classrooms. All the students benefit from Orff instruments in music. Orff Ensemble is available for 3-5<sup>th</sup> graders. That leaves \$500 in her classroom fund but if she needs more she can still come to the PTA and ask. "Motion to approve Lisa Wagner's request to utilize \$1000 from her own budget and the PTA will fund the remaining cost." Motion: Suzanne Mannis, second: Virginia Gleason.
  - b. Science and Technology funding request - Lego Robotics curriculum, hands on building opportunities with computer programming. Would be the first school in TPS to offer this to all students. Foundation has \$1800 for science and tech and we are missing \$3200. 16 set of materials and up to 10 teachers trained. The \$600 for the technology teacher will remain his and will not be applied. "Should the PTA fund the remaining costs to bring lego robotics?" motion: shea roach, second: suzanne mannis
  - c. Temperature of the school is freezing. Stacy Strow – can we have a grace period for sweatshirts, etc to keep the kids warm until it is fixed by TPS? Yes – in the classroom. Kids may bring non-uniform items that are similar colors, etc. Cannot use them for passing to pull outs, etc.
  - d. Lost and Found is now in the office
  - e. Uniform clarification – if it's a t-shirt with the patch or embroidery or silk screen, it's ok. Polos with logo are ok, too.
  - f. Kinder Bingo night planned for November 8th, 6-7:30pm
  - g. Wisenhower Update – Grey Strickland: We covered expenses and managed to make a little money.
  - h. Hispanic Festival – October 24<sup>th</sup>. Reach out to alumni to join us.
  - i. Exchange – Lezlie Segovia. 22 students coming from costa rica. Nov 15-30. 10 will be at EIS. They are from Yurusti where our kids went last spring. This is the first time for this school. This is a return to receiving students that we have not had for a couple of years. Got hosts from 5<sup>th</sup> Spanish, then 5<sup>th</sup> French, then on to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - j. Jumble sale – receiving donations tues/thurs/fri in the kinder and pre-k drop-off circle on the WEST side of the school. Contact Virginia Gleason to make donations or to volunteer.
  
- 9) Adjournment – motion: Grey Strickland, second: Kim Goen

\*\*Minutes subject to approval\*\*