

Alexander Science Center School PTA
GENERAL PTA MEETING MINUTES
October 28th, 2009

Minutes recorded by Lupe Ramirez and another parent (name unknown)

In Attendance: Exec. Board: Dwain Morris-Irvin, Michele, Siqueiros, Kristyn Cota, Peggy Jones, Lupe Ramirez, (See Sign-in Sheet for general membership names.)

Meeting came to order at 8:30am

PTA President, Dwain Morris-Irvin started the meeting with a review of the overall objectives listed on the agenda. (See agenda)

A Spanish interpreter was provided by the school, but it was decided that an interpreter was not needed at this time.

Agenda item #1: Website

- A) Dwaine asked how many people have looked at the website, and half of the present membership raised their hands.
- B) All PTA events are posted on the website and we will continue to post flyers, minutes from mtgs, upcoming events, etc.
- C) There were recommendations to post local community events (i.e. parent workshops).
- D) Dwain commented that this is a new process for the PTA but that Zahid will be the PTA liaison with the school and he will help with posting and links.

With more people showing up to the meeting, needing an interpreter was necessary. Lupe Ramirez started to interpret at this time. A parent volunteered to take notes (name ??)

Agenda item #2: Innisbrook – Michele Siqueiros

- A. We made an estimated \$15K, about as much as we made in 2008. Our first year with Innisbrook we raised 28K
- B. Half will go PTA and the other half to the Student Body acct. Motion to split the Innisbrook monies between PTA and the Student Body account. Motion passed.
- C. Proposed that the top sellers receive movie tickets as prizes. 2 tickets for those that sold 30 items; 4 tickets for those that sold 40 items. Motion to approve the purchase of the tickets, with the expected cost of \$120. Motion second and passed with a majority. One member was against.
- D. A discussion started about how to get discounted or free movie tickets. A parent (name???) will check to see if he can get discounted tickets thru USC.
- E. Orders will be delivered before Thanksgiving. Internet sales close when the school order is ready to ship. Parents, friends, and family can still place Innisbrook order through their website.

Skipped to Agenda #6: What are we raising money for?

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Student Body Account and Fundraisers

- A. There are rules and regulation defining what we can or cannot spend money on. Anything on the school campus, using facilities, staff, or teachers is considered a SBF. Innisbrook fundraiser was a student body fundraiser (SBF).
- B. Not all fundraisers are (SBF). For example, the water and candy sales at USC home games.
- C. Either way, we are always raising money for our students/the school, but it is important to decide as soon as possible what we want to raise funds for, estimate the amount of funds we want to raise and advertise/communicate that with the school.
- D. We have asked the school to identify in a list what the school needs. We are still waiting for that list.
- E. The PTA needs to make its own list, review the list of what the school would like to purchase and use that for goal setting and fundraising. 10 minute discussion continued with a call to action to form a subgroup to tighten and confirm PTA list of fundraising goals.
- F. What have we purchased in past years with fundraising monies: gift cards for teachers and Expo Park officers, PTA sponsored grade level field trips, WinterFest, Calendar for all schools' families, and PTA merchandise for sale (still have lots of t-shirts).

School translator (Lucy ??) returned at this point and notes taken again by Lupe Ramirez.

A new discussion started regarding Spanish translations for PTA meetings

- A. Michele Siqueiros suggested the PTA pay for a professional translator, in case Bertha Martinez cannot come to the meetings. It was noted that Bertha M. is not a professional translator (PT). It has cost \$160 to secure a PT in the past. Dwaine makes a motion to secure a PT. to insure the meetings to more smoothly.
- B. Ana Gator mentions that she has translating equipment for us to use as back-up, if we cannot get a PT, but that still means a PTA member will need to translate still.
- C. Gabriela (??) suggests we shop around for a PT.
- D. Peggy suggest we secure a PT for the next mtg. and continue to shop around
- E. A parent (name ??) asks if the PTA has the funds to cover \$160 for a PT for each mtg.?
- F. A parent (Kyung Moon Hwang) asks that a clear amount be specified before it goes to a vote, because we are asking to fund a PT for each mtg. for the rest of the year. That means 8 mtgs. at \$160 = \$1280
- G. A parent (name ??) asks if we could get a PT from LAUSD. Ms. Denen replies that with the district budget crisis, money for PT's has been cut and therefore unavailable for PTA mtgs.
- H. A parent (name ??) comments that it may not be necessary to get a PT if only 3-4 parents will need it, in other words, it may not be worth the cost. Michele responds by saying Spanish speaking parents need to be recognized, no matter

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- how small the need is. Another parent (name ??) adds that this is a reason why Spanish speaking parents don't join the PTA, because they feel ignored
- I. Kyung Moon Hwang (parent) makes a motion to hold off one month to vote to secure a PT for the rest of the year and just secure a PT for next month's mtg. Michele seconds the motion. The motion passed. \$160 will be spent to secure a PT for the next PTA meeting in November and a search for a cheaper alternative will start. If one cannot be found we just get our past PT for \$160 for the rest of the year.

Agenda item #3: Halloween Parade – Lupe Ramírez

- A. Parade will start at 8:30 am, with all the classes coming onto the black top with banners.
- B. We have judges confirmed, one for each category
- C. Categories are: Most Original, Funniest, Scariest, Most Enchanting, and Honorable Mention.
- D. Prizes are: a book for each category winner courtesy of Ms. Denen's book donation. With the exception of Honorable Mention, each category winner will also receive a \$4:00 gift card for Cold Stone Creamery.
- E. There will be a DJ playing music
- F. Half page certificates will be given to each participating student and full page color certificates will be given to each winning student, including Honorable Mention
- G. A call for volunteers, please show up at 8am.

Agenda item #4: USC Home Game Fundraiser:

- A. Dwain states there will be a book to document and acknowledge those that donate water or candy.
- B. Carmen Veazie (parent) asks if we have enough donations because we sold more last year. Response: have not sold out yet and we've only had 2 stations instead of 4.

Discussion returned to Agenda #6: What are we raising money for?

- A. Dwain reminded the membership that we need to approve the 50/50 split of monies from the Innisbrook fundraiser. 50% to PTA and 50% to the Student Body Account.
- B. A parent (Marie Geib) asks if there is a possibility to do another split. Marco replies that the school is doing all the distribution of orders, so it makes sense to keep the 50/50 split.
- C. Marco Flores motions to accept the 50/50 split. Marie Geib seconds the motion. It is put to a vote for the general membership and it passes with a majority vote.
- D. Discussion continues after the vote: A parent states that she would like to know what the money will go to. Kyung Moon states that this discussion should have taken place before the fundraiser was carried out. Dwaine replies that the planning took place before the school year started, but there will be future

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- fundraisers and we could decide now what the money will be spent on and that will help us make decisions in the future.
- E. Ms. Denen comments that the school will not accept anything lower. The Student Body account is available for public viewing and she could provide last years account which will look the same as this years

Agenda Item #5: WinterFest

No comments noted

Agenda #7: Principal's report

Safety Plan is available for viewing (180 pages long). A brief Action Plan with the most important points is printed out and available for the membership to take home
The school has not lost any programs thanks in part to USC.
Extra programs include: The Thornton School of Music Orchestra Program, Jazz Choir.
Children will be performing with other schools.
Arts budget was cut by the district but the school is using money from other areas, such as school buses, to cover the arts budget.
New pilot program called Lexia. It's and intervention reading program.
We are now a Program Improvement School. The school has a plan involving professional development training for teachers to help with better teaching methods. The teachers have approved the plan and it will be discussed further at the CEAC, ILAC meetings and the School Leadership Council.
On Oct. 15th, Superintendent, Jack O'Connell visited the school and a couple classrooms. He was very complimentary.

Other notes:

Amini Aubrey suggests that we specify on the agenda the minutes that we will spend on each topic

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.