

Swarthmore Rutledge School
Home and School Association Meeting
February 13, 2008

ATTENDEES: Beth DeBruyn, Linda Martin, Sharon Graham, Gary Davis, Tony Liu, Mary Murray, Alisa Herman-Liu, Nicola Jefferson, MC Petras

MINUTES:

- The minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting were approved

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- The School Advisory Committee (SAC) got feedback via a survey on how to improve the parent-teacher relationship. There were common themes, especially that communication between the parent and the teacher is perceived as a critical success factor in the relationship between the two parties. These core values will be sent home in the Rising Star and will also share at Back to School night in September.
 - Each student's academic and social progress is our SRS common goal.
 - We *value* each student's unique strengths and talents.
 - Teachers *balance the needs* of the entire classroom with the needs of each student.
 - We value and practice open two-way communication by using an Inform-Invite-Listen Communication Model.
 - *Inform* - We proactively share and disclose information.
 - *Invite* - Parents and teachers ask for relevant information and seek each other's input.
 - *Listen* - We check for full and complete understanding through active listening.
 - We respect each other's perspectives
 - We recognize that both parents and teachers bring valuable experience and knowledge to the relationship.
 - Parents and teachers work together on all student concerns before involving the principal.
- Report from Beth Kennedy in the lunchroom. The new personal ID numbers are working well. Remember that you can't transfer money between sibling accounts. The whole lunch line is now a quiet zone.
- Weather cancelled The Wiz visit today and we'll go next week
- February 15 is in-service day; team building is the key topic
- Jump Rope for Heart is late February
- Read Across America is March 3
- Pillow Polo is March 6
- There will be a Franklin Institute Flight Show on March 11
- Quiet Riot is slated for April 10
- Read-a-thon is on March 27

- The after school foreign language program is running well. Art Works had its final show today. Hands on Science, which has many supportive people working with this program, will be starting soon and we are still working to get a new science program in place for next year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dimensions in Technology:

- DIT will do a presentation for Home and School's March meeting. "Shift happens" can be a conversation starter for the Pennsylvania Technology Grant.
- Tony Liu spoke on behalf of Dimensions in Technology to the SAC committee in December to talk about the technology improvements being made in the past few months. We are considering purchasing a laptop to hook up with a projector but that needs to be considered in light of the school budget as well.
- Discussion on purchasing a Smart Board; the library is getting one shortly. WES has several.
- Tech Night and Math Night will be combined this year; date is April 17

SAC:

- The partnership with Swarthmore College project is moving along. Professors who are parents have been contacted and there is interest in sharing their knowledge with our SRS teachers. We need a teacher's wish list now.
- The Wellness Committee meets about five times a year and is working on goals with a target of September, 2008 to present those goals. The next meeting is March 10 at the Middle School at 3:30 p.m.
- A parent has expressed an interest in supporting a vegetable garden at the school. We may try to hook this person up with someone at the college as well.

Nominating Committee

- If you know someone who is interested, please let the co-presidents know. The committee will be approaching existing chairs to determine if they wish to continue the position. Committee chairs are Kate Dickey and Beth Resweber

OLD BUSINESS:

- Blue Rocks game is April 27
- There is a new supervisor for custodial services in the District and he has met with concerned parents about SRS air quality. This continues to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bingo Night as a fundraiser raised approximately \$2500.
- The district is considering where the 5th grade art project can go. Tops on the list is the Princeton Avenue stairwell.
- Spirit Wear is still for sale. We expect to put directories up for sale in the school office for half-price.
- Art Note Cards will be going home next week. Artwork was done in art class.
- Family Dinner dance is May 2

SPECIAL GUEST

- Special presentation by Nancy Clifford, FIT Life Coach, on Meyer's-Briggs and its applications with children.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 12 at 7:30 in the SRS Library

Meeting Adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Sharon Graham