

Parent Council Notes - January 13, 2009

Neave discussed the **Priorities and Vision of Parent Council for 2009** – Importance of a sturdy foundation. Parent Council is accountable to School Director (Geraldine).

- ❑ **Officers** – Neave & Cindy Scheyer are serving the roles of President & VP. Shelly McSweyn volunteered to be the Parent Council Treasurer.

We still need a Secretary and Parent Council Fundraiser (who would work along with the SWS Development Director).

- ❑ **Parent Body Involvement**
 - o Community Code - Expectations
 - o Outreach to Parent Body

SWS Auction Update – Carolyn Cox – Gave us an update on tickets sold, procurements, volunteer needs.

Parent Council Wiki Website – Drummond Reed provided an online demonstration of the wiki site (peanut butter wiki). Collected e-mail addresses to set up users on the site. All parents are invited to participate by invitation to their e-mail address. Geraldine asked for an explanation of what the wiki site will accomplish – main use would be as an interactive community bulletin board. The more constructed the site is, the less chance there is for negative ‘gossip’. It is meant to be used as an information exchange site (and also a place where volunteers can register for specific volunteer needs).

Volunteer vs ‘Required’ volunteer hours – Someone asked if it is possible to require that parents volunteer a required # of hours per year. Geraldine explained to us that the word volunteer contradicts the idea of a requirement, and that this is not the kind of environment we want to create. It is not in the spirit of the school and the example we want to model for our children. Volunteering requirements also can not be tied to adjusted tuition agreements – pretty soon we would all assume that those who volunteer the most must be on assisted tuition contracts. This would be in complete violation of privacy rules, etc.

We came to the conclusion that we need to be more creative in enticing volunteers to step forward. It’s possible we could offer incentives of some kind – a free mug, free t-shirt for volunteering, recognition at the school auction, etc. Suggestion to keep the volunteer requests positive and encouraging and not always being negative about the lack of volunteers – What you focus on expands. If we focus on the lack of volunteers, that is what we will continue to get. Focus and envision an ever-growing group of parent volunteers. When some of them see how fun it is, others will want to be included.

TEAM REPORTS –

After-school Sports Team – Nancy Gilbert was not in attendance.

Ultimate Signups for 5 -8 graders in the thick of sign ups for second season of Ultimate Frisbee

- Lots of boys signing up, there are enough boys to have 2 teams, but that doesn't help, because it's a co-ed sport.
- We NEED 5th & 6th grade girls, If we don't get enough, we won't be able to have a second team.
- Refer to Ultimate information sheet for details.***

Crafting Team – Shelly McSweyn – going well.

Farmer's Market Team – Sara Butters gave an update. We discovered that Geraldine was not in the loop about the expected launch date and funds needed to begin. Better communication is needed. Geraldine was invited to one of the next meetings and Sara and Tim will provide detailed information on the status, especially with concerns to land use and zoning requirements.

Service Club Team – New team – brainstorming ideas to get the community involved in service outside of the school.

New Business

Proposal to change the meeting night from Tuesday to another week night. This can not be done for this school year since the calendar is already set. It could be done for the next school year if the information is given to Geraldine by spring.

Next Parent Council Meeting is Tuesday, February 10, 2009