

PTO Minutes
Thursday, January 7, 2016
6:30pm, ERS Library

President: Meeting brought to order at 6:34pm; November minutes approved

Guest Speaker: Susan Bergman, Math Curriculum Coordinator presented “Math Strategies that Build Number Sense” (bergman.susan@wgsd.org)

- Three main points: Talk math with your kids; act like you like math (even if you don’t); focus more on the process and less on the right answer
- Common Core Math is not about strategies for solving math problems but about what concepts should be taught at each grade level.
- US Traditional Algorithms are eventually taught, but other strategies are taught earlier.
- Non-traditional strategies are taught to encourage the idea of being flexible with numbers rather than getting caught up with procedures. We don’t want kids to only follow procedures but to understand how/why the answer is obtained.
- Parents practiced with the problem-solving strategies the children learn.
- When doing math with your kids, ask “How do you know?” and “Can you show me another way?” Praise and question the strategy, not the answer → keep the focus on process!
- A link to the presentation is on the district website so that parents can explore the different strategies being taught to our children. <https://goo.gl/y8Dlva>
- Bedtimemath.org is a website/app/book that you can do at bedtime; it is a story that has three math questions at the end and is good to do before going to sleep.

Vice Presidents:

- **Dinner & A Movie** (Ashley Otto Green) – Jan 15, “Inside Out”; volunteers are needed
- **Box Tops & Campbells Labels** (Jenny Shu) – ERS will receive a check for \$960 in spring; next open store will be open in February
- **Enrichment** (Virginia Smith, Elena Tetreault) – Confirmation of registration was returned to students this week; any questions, ask Elena.
- **Trivia Night** (Sarah King) – 3/5 at St. Elizabeth’s of Hungry Parish; lots of help is still needed with securing donations/auction items and an MC. On average, Trivia brings in \$10K for the school, which provides the teacher grants the PTO provides to teachers on the first day of school. There is a meeting at Sarah King’s house on 1/14 at 7pm.
- **WG Foundation** (Sarah King) – 1/31 Mardi Gras fundraiser will be held at Cyrano’s with 20% of proceeds going to the Foundation.

Treasurer: Current balance is \$14,290.71; library payment will be made in January.

Principal & Faculty Report:

- Ms. Moppert received a mini-grant for a trellis to grow plants inside.
- Some families have been overcharged for lunches; 3-5th graders were asking for an additional entrée or ala carte item and were charged for it. Dr. Wuch asked Theresa (in charge of food for the District) to draft a letter that parents will sign giving students permission to get extra entrees/ala carte items.
- Spirit Wear will be taken over by the school. Revenue will go to the student activity account, which is used for things like the staff holiday party, drawing at a staff meeting, etc. Dr. Wuch is aiming for a simple logo that can be embroidered or printed on a larger scale.

- Dr. Wuch is starting a blog that will go to an ERS FB page (not the PTO page) and Twitter account. The idea is to disseminate the messages to a wider audience.
- When things are being pushed out through PTO through Wed email, can we ask for electronic responses; everything is going paperless.
- Re-Imagining the Library Committee will meet 1/21 and present at the Feb PTO meeting.

New Business

- Parent (Jodi Allen) who owns Fresh Art Photography has offered to do mini-sessions on Feb 3 and 100% of proceeds will go to ERS PTO. Flat \$50 fee for a 15-min mini-session. She will work with Teresa on details and info will be distributed.
- Mel Thompson suggested a “wine wrap” for trivia night where people donate a bottle of wine at least \$10. All bottles are wrapped and purchased for \$10 at trivia – you could wind up with a \$10 or a \$50 bottle.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Next Meeting – February 4, 2016

Thank you for coming!