

GSES PTO MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

In attendance: Sandy Brooks, Elizabeth Outka Pollard, KC Cloud-Borgstedt, Laura Dysart, Greg Laidig, Scott Calcaterra, Kara Moser, Charles Britton, Mandy Patterson, Lauren Stevens, Mandy Flowers, Michelle Nelms, Blake Callis Chapman, Jayne Bryant, Janet Kemp, Stephanie Davis and Emily Tewksbury.

Sandy Brooks called the meeting to order and everyone introduced himself or herself. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss upcoming events and give an overview of the PTO's role with the school.

Elizabeth Outka-Pollard gave an enthusiastic overview of the upcoming Scrip Program. This is a way to support GSES without spending any additional money of your own by pre-purchasing gift cards from almost every store or service you already use (over 700 retailers) - a way to give back a % of your typical spending to the school. The cards are purchased at a discount, families receive face value, and the school receives the difference - anywhere from 2-15%. This works very well with large renovations or appliance purchases, as well as routine purchases - there is no item you couldn't buy through Scrip. Information will be sent home shortly, and orders will be taken two times a month - and a special focus around the holidays for gifts. Please consider - the potential is HUGE!

1. 2009-2010 Officers

President:	Sandy Brooks
First VP:	Jayne Bryant
Second VP:	Charles Britton
Secretary:	Laura Dysart
Treasurer:	Greg Laidig
Hospitality Chair:	Hope King
Fundraiser Chair:	Laura Dysart
PTO Board Rep:	Lauren Stevens

2. **PTO Classroom Representatives:** blanks indicate an opening. We are still in need of a PK/JK Co-Rep, Grades 1/2 Co-Reps and Middle School Co-Reps. Please contact Sandy Brooks if you are interested. Sandy explained the role of the PTO Rep as attending PTO meetings and keeping the families in their grade informed about important events and issues and encouraging them to be involved in the PTO activities and fundraisers.

PK / JK	<u>Michelle Nelms and</u>
JK5 / K	<u>Scott Calcaterra and Mandy Patterson</u>
1st / 2nd	<u></u>
4th / 5th	<u>Janet Kemp/June Hastings/Laura Dysart</u>
Middle School	<u></u>

3. Upcoming Annual Events / On Going Opportunities (PTO and School)

Sandy explained each event/opportunity in the table below and asked parents to let her know if they are interested in co-chairing an event. Please contact Sandy if you are interested in being a Co-Chair for any of the events below, or contact the Chair if you would like to help with the event. Please don't forget to turn in your Volunteer Survey. Sandy reviewed the **Sally Foster** wrapping paper, gift and magazine subscription renewal and purchase fundraiser - information is coming home, please participate in this easy fundraiser to benefit the school. Sandy asked people to help with **43rd Street Festival** (9/21) - we need face painters and water sellers (parent/child combos work very well). We donate half of our proceeds to Freedom House. Laura Dysart also mentioned **Fall Festival, October 24th**, a really fun community fundraiser event. It takes all parents taking a shift to man a carnival game or booth to pull it off. Laura also asked for any potential sponsors for the event.

Thank you to Michelle Nelms for serving as our volunteer coordinator. Please see openings below.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Co-Chair</u>
Sally Foster	09/14 – 10/02	Sandy Brooks	Kara Moser
43 rd Street Festival	09/19	Sandy Brooks	Open
Fall Festival	10/24	Laura Dysart	Open
Grandparents Day	11/25	Hope King	Open
Pancakes Breakfast & Holiday Shops	12/5	Hope King	Open
Fawn Shop	12/8-12/11	Laura Dysart	Hope King
Scrip	On-going	Elizabeth Outka Pollard	Open
Box Tops	On-going	Emily Tewksbury	Mike Tewksbury
Teacher Appreciation	On-going	Open	Open
Volunteer Coordinator	On-going	Michelle Nelms	Open
Barnes & Noble Book Fair	Date TBD	Laura Dysart	Janet Kemp
Scholastic Book Fair	Date TBD	Laura Dysart	Open

4. Money – Ideas to spend

Sandy shared that the PTO likes to take on projects that enrich our student’s experience at school. In the past the PTO has funded Theatre IV performances, contributed to the computer lab, donated to the scholarship fund, donated to the annual fund, contributed to professional development as well as start up money for staff and teacher appreciation to name a few. The school would like to have a phone/intercom system installed in each classroom to improve classroom office communication. The school has a quote of \$3300 for a system and would like the Board and PTO to consider splitting this cost. Mandy Flowers and Scott Calcaterra asked for a copy of the quote to see if they can come under the quote through contacts that they have. Please let Sandy Brooks know if you have ideas for projects for the PTO, and the PTO will ask teachers if they do as well.

5. Miscellaneous –

A parent asked if GSES had any policy/plan related to the H1N1 virus currently affecting local universities and the community at large. We have several children with health related immune problems and exposure to this virus would really compromise their health. Charles Britton responded that we do follow usual procedures such as hand washing, cleaning classrooms with Lysol, policy of no child should attend school with any symptoms of illness, and must be fever free for at least 24 hours before returning to school after illness. Charles Britton and all present agreed it would be good to send out a special bulletin related to H1N1 and a reminder to please keep sick children home, as well as developing a policy on this. One of the problems with H1N1 is it comes on quickly, please keep your child home if you suspect they are sick.

Emily Tewksbury added that manning the GSES Table at the South of the James Farmer’s Market is a lot of fun - she has very much enjoyed and encouraged others to sign up to do so. GSES provides books with a sign that says “donations accepted” as well as some children’s activities. In the near future we will be advertising Fall Festival as well as selling Raffle Tickets. There is a sign up on the school bulletin board.

Meeting adjourned, next meeting Tuesday, October 6th at 5:30 p.m. in the GSES Ash Library.

Submitted by Laura Dysart, GSES Secretary.