

EIS PTA Unit Meeting Minutes January 14, 2010 7:00pm

- A. Meeting called to Order at 7:05 pm
- B. Presentation of Flags by Girl Scout Troop 2337
- C. Welcome
- D. Approval of October minutes- Motion to approve by Dana Drummond, second by Allison Geary. Motion passed.
- E. Principal Report-
 - a. Budget- TPS budget is suffering. Certified teachers did receive a 1.5% raise. Support staff employees were not slated for raises at this time. One hundred jobs at the service center will be cut. Twelve month employees and elementary principals were furloughed. Ms Strow reports she will be out on furlough on February 4th but will be available on February 5th. An EIS assistant position was recently eliminated based as determined by TPS staffing equation.
 - b. School Calendar for 2010-2011- Pending school board approval, August 23, 2010 scheduled to be first day of school for 2010-2011 school year.
 - c. Power school software going live at EIS on January 14th. Parents and guardians will receive confidential ID and passwords this week and will be able to utilize the program to monitor their student's academic performance on January 16th.
 - d. Class tree planting attempted on January 12th, postponed because of the weather. Up with trees planted some trees on the 13th. EIS families encouraged to come and help with school tree planting on January 16th from 10am-noon.
 - e. Upcoming events:
 - i. 4th and 5th grade music/drama program: Music from the 50s and 60s, Thursday, Jan 21 at 2:00 and 6:30 pm.
 - ii. Mardi Gras- February 2
 - iii. Class Valentine Parties and Jump rope for heart on January 11th
 - iv. No school on February 12 and 15th.
 - v. Pizza Bingo- January 29th from 6-8 pm. Allison Geary announces 5th grade fundraiser return. Bingo cards for \$3 per card or 2 cards for \$5. Pizza will be sold for \$2 per slice and drinks available for \$1. Prizes valued close to \$5 needed.
- F. Treasurer Report-Rob Wright passed out Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual statement as well as the balance sheet dated January 9, 2010. Deferred any detailed questions to Treasurer, Kevin Tillman, who was unable to attend this meeting.
- G. President report
 - a. Pictures (47 pictures total) from EIS International Fair on TPS website. Should be able to download/copy pictures.
 - b. Teach for the stars- Unit members encouraged to complete three hour training session for volunteer teaching. Last day for paid substitutes is February 4th. Substitutes can select the schools they would be willing to substitute at. Program information on TPS website. Principal Strow adds that our school does have para teachers in the classrooms. We are fortunate that they are capable of stepping in when needed. Music, Art and PE do not have para teachers however so may need to pull from other areas to cover these classes.
 - c. Thank you to Keren Wright, hospitality chair, for the wonderful holiday meal she organized for EIS staff.
 - d. Minnetonka technology/immersion site visit and conference a good opportunity for our technology teacher. Conference is currently full, but EIS on waiting list should an opening become available.

H. New Business-

- a. 2nd Vice President-Dana Drummond passes out a handout outlining the PTA board of director positions and their descriptions for the 2010-2011 school year. Proposed nominating committee includes Anna America, Carmela Grantham, Jennifer Kelly, Donna Nix, Dana Schuler Drummond, Marlow Sipes and Johnna Walker. During February's unit meeting the committee will be responsible for submitting nominees for consideration. PTA board members for the 2010-2011 school year will be voted on during the March 2010 unit meeting. Becky Porter motions to approve nominating committee, Paul Wheeler 2nds motion. Motion passes.
 - b. Ms. McCrary educates unit on process of acquiring target language books. Reports that the library exchanges 6000 books a month. EIS students visiting the library with a library pass total ~1800 visits per month. Initial book purchases came from bond money and considerable fundraising. EIS has the challenge of maintaining 3 collections and typically receives only \$250 from bond money. Obtaining appropriate French books is particularly challenging due to differences in reading levels, culture, and customs restrictions. Families with connections to Canada or travel to Canada have been helpful in the past and obtained books. Unit members ask if there is a wish list they can refer too when they are in a position to help. Used book sale at the public library in Ottawa, Canada has been a good source of books in the past. The goal is to add 300 French books per year while maintaining other collections as well. Ms Strow encourages unit members to vote during March's election. A school bond issue will be voted on in March. Bond money typically supports school libraries, technology, helps with hardback book acquisition. Mr. Clark Frayser reports he has a box in his art room that collects used books for Mexico. He reports a common household in Mexico does not have many books and our discards would be a nice donation to underprivileged Mexican children.
- I. Fund Development – Missy Frette, Fiestivale Chair, reports the committee has identified the library as a worthy cause to rally its fundraising efforts. Fiestivale proceeds help support the PTA operating budget as well as support the identified fundraising goal as proceeds allow. The committee will be meeting at Leon's after the PTA meeting and all are welcome to attend.
- J. Announcements
- a. Jessica Holtzscher- recommends the book *Global Achievement Gap* as pertinent reading.
 - b. The EIS Foundation will have their annual Golf tournament on April 19th, the weekend following fiestivale.
 - c. Johnna Walker-reports she is taking orders for EIS spirit wear. She also has a limited supply of EIS available today.
 - d. Mom's Bunko night will be at Harwelden Mansion on February 25th.
 - e. Congratulations to the Philippe Corbaz for winning the global trivia and to the Corbaz family for receiving their US citizenship this week.
 - f. A reminder from Principal Strow that EIS staff is not exempt from personal hardships. One of the French para teachers is still awaiting word about her Haiti Family after the earthquake.
- K. Adjournment 8:00- Multiple motions made for adjourning including a Motion made by Stacy Strow and second by Dana Drummond. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Becky Porter