

**Goleta Valley Junior High School
Parent Teacher Association Minutes
Meeting of February 9, 2009**

In Attendance: See attachment

Executive Committee Meeting: an Executive Committee meeting was held at 6:00 pm before the regular meeting. It was attended by Nila Shinday, CJ Miller, Carrie Hawn, Stacey Matson, Anna Sorenson, Cara Schipper, and Jack Tiethof. The first item was to review the recommended changes to the By-laws. These were presented to the Executive Committee on February 6 by Anna Sorenson (see attachment).

⇒ **Stacey Matson motioned that the recommended changes be approved as is. Carrie Hawn seconded the motion and it was approved.**

It was also suggested that we look at the current job descriptions of the Committee. Anna agreed to review these and give feedback to the Committee.

The second item of the meeting was to review the budget and to develop an initial forecast of the projected revenues and expenses. This was done as a group. Stacey will present this at the March meeting.

Regular PTA Meeting:

Nila Shinday welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Industrial Technology Department Presentation: Bill Gourley gave a brief presentation on GVJH's IT department. He indicated that IT is taught in both the 7th and 8th grades. The 7th grade students work on various types of projects including ones which use CAD (computer assisted design), plotters, hand tools and pc graphics. The 8th grade students work on projects with using similar equipment but their projects are generally more sophisticated projects.

Special Education Department Presentation: John Schettler gave a presentation on the Special Ed Department. He reviewed the basic aspect of their program with the assistance of a hand out (see attachment). Briefly, the department consists of 7 teachers and 15 aids which service 123 students with special needs (14.5% of student population). Students with Sp Ed needs typically take 1-3 courses in the Sp Ed Department with the remainder being regular classes. Most classes have 12-18 students versus regular classes of roughly 30 per class. The seven teachers specialize: Ms. Holbrook teaches a CTE class; four of the other teachers teach a variety of course for students with mild to moderate disabilities; and John Schettler and Tara Uliasz teach students with moderate to severe disabilities (GVJH is the only junior high school in the area who can teach students with severe disabilities). There is an ongoing process to identify and evaluate potential new candidates for Sp Ed.

Committee Reports:

1. Approval of the January '09 Meeting Minutes:

⇒ **The minutes were approved and will be posted on the GVJH website.**

2. **Treasurers Report** - Stacey Matson presented an updated Cash Balance (handout as attachment). This showed an increase this month in income of \$1,305.88 (mostly from "Make a Difference"). There was a total of \$205.66 in new expenses paid since the last PTA meeting and \$4,114.35 of new expenses to be paid in February, total \$4,320.01.
⇒ **CJ Miller motioned to approve the payment of these charges; Russell Green seconded the motion, and the PTA approved these transactions.**
3. **Make A Difference** – C.J. Miller indicated that we keep getting more contributions. We are now at over \$14,000 and are slowly approaching our budgeted amount of \$16,500. .

New Business:

1. **Sponsor Club Pathways for field trip** – Paulette Rainbolt informed us that there is a new club sponsored by UCSB for students who would be first timers at college. They will have a field trip to Cal State Northridge for 30 students and ask that we consider donating \$2,000 to support this trip. There was much discussion on this after which it was concluded it was not appropriate for the PTA as a group to donate to this since it only applied to a few students. However, it was suggested that we can seek donations from individuals through the Newsletter.
2. **Newsletter Mailing** – Paulette Rainbolt suggested that we could save a substantial amount in mailing costs if we distribute the Newsletter during 1st period instead of mailing, about \$500/ mailing. On the other hand, others suggested that the Newsletter might not make it home many times if given to the students. The conclusion was to keep the \$2,000 in the budget and to discuss the options further.
3. **Nominating Committee** – Anna Sorenson, as the Parliamentarian, will head the Nominating Committee to select candidates for next year's PTA. In order to have elections in May, we need a Nominating Committee in place by March and then to have candidates identified shortly thereafter. It was agreed that she will e-mail current members (Kristen Kovacs will get her the e-mail addresses) in order to find 2-3 members for her committee. Also Carrie Hawn will let her know what positions will be open for '09-10.
4. **Bake Sale for Science Fair Night on March 19** – Mr. Penkala queried whether the PTA would sponsor a bake sale to raise funds for the Science Department. There was some discussion about this but no decision was reached.
5. **Soiree** (Carrie Hawn, Julie Salinas) – the date has been set by getting the facilities at Dos Pueblos HS for May 22. This is the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, and concern was expressed that many people may not come because of holiday commitments. Carrie offered to get another date for the facility. Also, CJ Miller had discussed the theme for the Soiree with the Leadership group. They showed a strong preference for a "Hollywood" theme.

6. **Graduation Party** – CJ Miller and Jack Tiethof discussed with the Leadership group alternatives to a graduation party that might be more popular than having it at Zodos. CJ has proposed having a carnival format similar to what La Colina had used, and this was well received by the Leadership group. The group showed a strong interest in having a party on site and holding it 1-2 days before graduation. Having it during the 6th -7th periods would allow students taking buses to still do so, and it would allow using staff as volunteer help. Veronica Rodgers also thinks it should be OK, but will get formal Department chair approval.
7. **Electronic Sign** – Nila Shinday discussed the idea of having a sign in front of the school. The idea was that this could be a “special project” funding for '08-'09. There was much discussion around the feasibility given that our income seems to be lower than the Budget and yet there are many other needs for funds. One alternate possibility is to have a separate fund raiser for the sign. It was agreed that we would re-look at this next month. In the meantime, we will develop our first forecast on the projected income/expenses and Nila will try to get a better price.

Old Business:

1. **Vacant positions** – there are still several vacant positions for which we need volunteers.

Principal's Report:

- There will be 16 tours (400 6th grade students) from elementary schools coming during February-March for “Welcome to GV” visits.
- It was also suggested that we invite the parents of 6th graders to our May PTA meeting.
- End of Semester award went to the Golden Vikings. There was a party with free hot dogs.
- The “Decades Dance” after school went over well.
- Star Testing – will be held April 21-30 this year. The testing will be held three days per week (Tu-Wed-Th).

Next PTA Meeting: will be on March 9, 2009 7 pm in the Staff Lounge.