

**Goleta Valley Junior High School
Parent Teacher Association Minutes
Meeting of November 10, 2008**

In Attendance: See below

Carrie Hawn welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. She was filling in for Nila Shinday, who is out of the country.

Science Department Presentation: Brad Penkala, Head of Science Department, gave a brief presentation of the 7th and 8th grade programs. The 7th grade program focuses on biology. The teachers rotate the various topics taught in order to share much of the lab equipment (there is not separate equipment for each teacher).

The 8th grade curriculum focuses on the structure of matter. In closing Mr. Penkala made a pitch for Science Night, which will be held on November 20 (6:30-9 pm). It is being held in conjunction with UCSB. Several graduate students will be assisting. There will be three activities to be shared with the audience. The audience will rotate between the three activities. The purpose of Science Night is to get our neighborhood more exposure to GVJH and science. Thus, students, parents, and neighbors are all cordially invited.

Mr. Penkala made a request for the PTA to furnish refreshments and the use the event as a fund raiser. UCSB is also willing to furnish. This issue was tabled for discussion later in the meeting. ~~not resolved.~~

Independent Studies (also called Science projects) – there will be a Science Fair in March at which the Independent Studies will be displayed. All 8th graders are required to do an Independent Study. The science teachers have been working with the 8th graders on the planning phase.

Finally, Mr. Penkala brought up some unmet equipment needs for which he is requesting assistance from the PTA (e.g, hot plates, stop watches, safety goggles, and centrifuges). Ms. Rogers requested that Brad present these to her and then she can address these through the PTA and by other means.

Social Science/Foreign Language Department Presentation: Christine Shaw, Head of the Social Science/Foreign Language Department, gave a presentation. In this school year, the foreign languages, Spanish and French, are taught in the 8th grade only because of budget constraints. She emphasized that that starting a foreign language in the 8-12 year old age range is optimal for learning. Also, taking one year in the 8th grade can count towards the 2 year language requirement required by universities.

In the social studies curriculum, world history is taught in the 7th grade and American history is covered in the 8th grade. There is a great deal of reading for both, and the ISP support is helping those who have difficulty with this. Finally, Christine pointed out that the International Festival, held in April, provides opportunities to celebrate different continents.

Approval of the September and October '08 Meeting Minutes:

The minutes were approved with no corrections and will be posted on the GJVJH website.

Committee Reports

1. **Newsletter report** – Paulette Rainbolt was commended for an excellent job. The design and lay-out is excellent and the Newsletter is well received. Paulette indicated that many are now receiving the Newsletter via internet. If more would make this election, it would save significantly on paper costs. Other possibilities for distribution were considered.
2. **Financial Report** - Stacey Matson presented an updated budget sheet (hand out). Of particular note were expenses from October 20 and November 10 totaling \$5,650.85. A motion was presented by C.J. Miller to pay these expenses; it was seconded by Carrie Hawn, and approved by the group. Stacey also indicated that 2006-7 financial records have now been audited, as well as 2007-8. These were done by Harms.
3. **Make A Difference** – C.J. Miller gave a status update. We have so far netted about \$10,000. This is only 50% of the amount expected. Only 13% of the GJVJH families have contributed so far (113 families). It was agreed that this level of contribution was disappointing and unacceptable, especially in lieu of the state and local budget cuts, i.e., the money will be used for projects which are important to the student body and cannot be supported by other means. It was agreed that a 2nd push on the Make a Difference campaign is needed. C.J. Miller will come back and present at the December meeting her ideas for the 2nd push.
4. **Membership** – Kristen Kovacs updated the status: there are 359 members registered versus 492 last year, disappointing. This includes 85 parents from the 8th grade. The membership cards will be issued shortly. Also, the Sea Monkeys have the most parents joining the PTA, and thus they will have a root beer float party. Kristen also issued a list of PTA members with contact info.
5. **By-law Review** – Anna Sorensen, who has volunteered to take the Parliamentarian position, will be doing the by-law review.
6. **Hospitality** – Holly Wallis is proposing to reduce the Teacher's Lunches to every other month – January, March and May – every month is too much work. The cost of the 1st Pastries with the Principle was \$60. Given the possible lower than expected revenue stream, we may have to try to reduce this.

President's Report (Carrie Hawn)

1. **Vacant Positions** – Carrie indicated that there are still several positions vacant:
 - Helper at large (2 needed), Honorary Service Awards, Soiree (2), Promotion Chair (1-2), Student Recognition. Please talk to Nila or Carrie if can help.
2. **Thank you's** – these were offered to the following people:
 - a. Guest speaker – Joe Bruzzese;
 - b. Pastries With The Principal – Laura Hallick, Stephanie Jones;
 - c. Dance – Emily Hart (teacher), Liesel Wodtke, CJ Miller, Ginger Gillquist, Louise Blair, Jack Tiethof, Anita Sy;
 - d. Staff Appreciation – Holly Wallis, Sophia Bell, Nancy Gariner, Becky Cohen, Robin Knauss.

3. **Bake Sale** – a proposal was made to have a Bake Sale at Science Night as a fund raiser. ~~No decision was reached~~ It was decided that there was not enough time to put something together. Carrie will notify Mr. Penkala to have UCSB go ahead with the refreshments. We will consider holding a refreshment sale in the Spring during the IS Science Fair.

Old Business

1. **Directory** – Todd Trapp confirmed that Ratheon (his employer) is willing to help by printing the directory. However, they need more details in terms of the type of files to be used. These details will be provided to Todd by Stacey. Stacey agreed to produce the Directory but needs someone to join her.
2. **Music Department Body Microphones** – According to Veronica Rogers, getting the microphones is on track so that they will be available for this year's musical.
3. **Electronic Sign** – this is on hold until the revenue situation for the year becomes clearer.

Principal's Report:

Veronica Rogers gave status report on the Instructional Support Program (ISP). It has been well received by the students. In fact it is highlighted on the first page of this month's Navigator. With ISP, students with grade deficiencies will be given extra support. This should help us meet the 2008-2009 Academic Achievement goals (from School Site Council Goals, given as a handout). In fact this is a key tool in trying to close the gap. The technology goal related to equipment, computers and software is difficult given the budget situation. In the past, the PTA has helped in funding projects. However for this year, PTA support may be less unless the revenue generation cannot be increased. Finally, the Safe Schools' goal is being addressed by having anti-bullying training being taught to 7th graders. The course is run by Ms. Vasta.

Next PTA Meeting: will be on December 8, 2008 7 pm in the Staff Lounge