

## **QUEST/PAGE ABC MINUTES**

*January 6, 2009*

Present: Christine Holland, David Berg, Marcia Holland, Janelle Burger, Nancy Velazquez, Tammy Inselman, Julie Shaffer, Cheryl Mancine, Deborah Wilson, Cindy Soulier, Amy Prezbindowski, Rachel Shaffer

Meeting was called to order at 6:19.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Report next month.

Vice President/Website: Website will be renewed soon. Amazon was about \$300 for December. Recommendations for model letter accepted or bullets of ideas to work in to your own letter to legislators.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Coordinator: Nancy – 7<sup>th</sup> grade PAGE has been discontinued for the 09-10 school year. Hopefully when budgets allow, PAGE will be again available for 7<sup>th</sup> graders. PAGE decisions needed to be made now due to JH registration taking place at the end of Jan. We should know the status of QUEST for the 09-10 school year by May. First grade testing starts Thursday – 80 students scheduled but there are more applications to be processed.

Family Events: Pool party Jan. 24, 12-2:00 (Margaret Mason in charge). Nancy reminded us we need a flyer by Mon. Jan. 12. We could & should have info there about membership. Amy will provide flyers for writing those letters about budget concerns. She wants to include contacts for school board members as well as legislators.

Fundraising: Christine – we need to decide what's most important with all the agenda items coming up this spring. The bulb fundraiser or the battery fundraiser still take time and effort. It was suggested to do one more gift card run and then focus on keeping the program intact. Taking away the spring fundraiser will cut about \$5K from the budget, mostly Nancy's technology money. After discussion the comments were all supportive of focusing on advocacy this spring and less energy spent on fundraising.

Legislative: Marcia - With regards to the current budget crisis, when it comes to identified gifted children, the district needs to be asked where the best placement for these kids is when they enter 7<sup>th</sup> grade. GE Day is Feb 6. We're not going to have a bus – we are advocating carpooling! Appointments will be made next week with legislators from the 25<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> districts. Program hosted by the coalition with helpful talking points will be starting at 9:00. The good news is that gifted programs are only projected to lose about \$20K, not the several million that could have been cut. The per-pupil allocation has been increased to over \$400. We are stagnant – the program hasn't grown statewide. The Basic Ed Task Force is being sued so GEd isn't going to be included under the BETF umbrella of protection. Parents need to keep reminding legislators that this is a special needs population. If a legislator receives 4-5 letters about an issue they will begin research into the issue.

Membership: Christine – someone has stepped up to assist Ronda with a membership drive targeting those who have never joined or have not renewed.

Newsletter: Tammy - new deadline is Fri., Jan. 9.

Public Relations/Secondary Schools: Cindy – scholarship letter with all schools identified and

criteria listed is almost ready. Final copy will be sent to all 3 counselors. One scholarship from last year still needs to be sent out. There was a mix up of where to send it.

School Board: next month

Teacher's Rep: Janelle – just cruising through with no complaints. Two keyboards need to be replaced along with one mouse.

Volunteer Coordinator: Cheryl – no report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Read-a-thon Update: \$3500 with some (about \$250) at the quad.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Spring Fundraiser: GiftCents
- School Board Meeting Jan 26<sup>th</sup>: We need to go in with a positive attitude. Thank them for 30 years of commitment. Thank them for a gold standard program. Strongly appeal to reinstate 7<sup>th</sup> grade PAGE. Let's go for the biggest show of GED supporters ever.
- NWGCA Parent Event, Mar 6<sup>th</sup>: Connections Conference for GEd parents. Many speakers addressing different challenges and parent networking. 8:30-12:30 at Foster High School Performing Arts Center.
- Auction: Nancy has completed the letter and data base.
- Nomination Committee: We need to put together a committee. The committee needs to be in place by March.

Meeting adjourned 8:02PM.

**Next Meeting Tuesday, February 3rd, 6pm @ Las Palomas**