

QUEST/PAGE ABC MINUTES

March 3, 2009

Present: David Berg, Marcia Holland, Julie Shaffer, Nancy Velazquez, Janelle Burger, Christine Holland, Deborah Wilson, Eric Hooper, Amy Prezbindowski

Meeting called to order 6:12PM.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Julie – Because we voted not to go ahead with the spring bulb fundraiser we will make up for the shortfall elsewhere. Some may come in (extra) from the auction. That fundraiser was to support the technology expense which has not been spent.

Vice President/Website: David – Calendar available through host runs on another piece of software that we would have to purchase. On hold for now. We are still figuring out the forum structure for the web site. People needed for a “test run” to feel out what people want and need. There could be a section for board members only. Amy is e-mailing about 350 people with legislative updates from the coalition – these people could benefit from postings but many are not members of ABC. Marcia inquired about the push function to alert to new postings. Christine wants a limited space for anyone to access and if they want more then they can be directed to joining ABC. On a trip to Olympia (Wednesday morning) David and Paulina Davison, a PAGE 7th grader, testified about gifted ed in front of the education committee. A bill to put GE under SPED was rejected. There was support from some politicians on the committee. David has posted his testimony to the senate on the website.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Coordinator: Nancy – First graders have started. No tears this year! Back-to-school night was last week. Good turn out – about 50% for BTS night. PAGE testing for 8th & 9th graders. There are a few openings. District will make some sort of announcement soon about QUEST/PAGE and the future of the program for the 2009-10 year. Communication of intentions should go to ABC/PAGE board. A snail-mail letter would be most likely. District is saying it's now \$12-14 million to cut. Either they take a “leap of faith” and go ahead with the program as it stands (the state still has to decide on the \$200K budget at a later date) or they decide times are too bad and they shouldn't count on the state funding and cut it altogether. Or it could be somewhere in-between –but the program needs to know sooner than later. Program has been under review for about 1 ½ years. Parents review form sent home at the end of each school year are taken into account. The program will be different next year – just how different remains to be seen.

Family Events: Ice skate party changed to April 9, 6-8:00PM, due to science fair project issues. \$1 per skater. A quarter sheet will probably go out in backpacks.

Fundraising: Kirby may have said she would handle the GiftCents in the spring. We only have 13 donations for the auction. Cindy may be able to help call potential donors. Adding to Amy's e-mail duties may be promoting the online auction. Last year we had about 40 items and made around the \$2,500-3,000 mark. Nancy got info in the mail regarding coupons for the Classy Chassis car wash. Cost is \$2 per ticket and we sell them for \$7 each. Adding this option to the GiftCents packet may be a good option. Pam Miller is going to do the Read-A-Thon for the 1st graders over spring break. We may see about \$1000 from this as they are new and excited about the program.

Legislative: Marcia – Word is out all over the state to parents of GE to make their voice heard.

The governor's budget still has funding for GE. That is never the budget that is adopted. The senate still hasn't spoken. Work concluded around April 26. We should hear something sooner. Amy will still send out reminders about contacting legislators regarding our issue. Only about 16% of parents contact their legislators. It used to be required that GE programs have a parent committee – many have not continued this vital function. There are about 100 kids in self-contained, about 100 in PAGE, and 340 in pull-out. The scarf idea was wonderful for GE day. Puyallup should identify 2-3 districts with good programs and meet with coordinators to challenge them to form an advocacy group and get themselves to Olympia as a voting force. ABC/PAGE should mentor other groups to form a strong voice for GE.

Membership: Three new first grade families. More may come in Friday.

Newsletter: Next newsletter will have Amy's info big & bold on the front page with the "to save trees" idea to switch to e-mail updates. We probably want to wait until the district makes a decision before the next one goes out. End of April would be a good target date to push the auction. Articles due on April 8th.

Teacher's Rep: Janelle – Wonderful field trip to History museum and Art museum today. Receipts turned in tonight for additional cost of admission and bus. April field trip to Nisqually Refuge will only be a bus cost.

Communications: Amy - See above many references to e-mails going out for almost every aspect of ABC/PAGE communication.

OLD BUSINESS

- Gifted Ed Day Success
- NWGCA Parent Event Mar 7th – encourage attendance/credit card machine/photos. Parents of GE don't have many opportunities to connect. No Puyallup parents are signed up. Scholarships could be available if we are asked. David will be there taking pictures.
- 1st Grade parent night a success – see above coordinator's report.
- Safeway EScrip Sign-up campaign volunteer needed. Who wants to sit out front of Safeway. Schedule after Girl Scout cookie sale.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nomination Committee Chair is Eric Hooper. Nominations can be sent through the website, David will set that up. Eric may set up another e-mail account to take nominations also. ABC/PAGE needs chairs for Family Events, Membership, Fundraising, Newsletter, School Board, Volunteer, and someone interested in being President.

Meeting adjourned 7:55PM.

Next Meeting April 7, 2009 6pm @ Las Palomas