

QUEST/PAGE ABC Minutes *April 7, 2009*

Present: Nancy Velazquez, David Berg, Christine Holland, Deborah Wilson, Amy Prezbindowski, Kirby Burchett, Eric Hooper

Meeting called to order 6:18PM. Correspondence was received from Ann Koch thanking us for helping out with the CONNECTIONS event. Christine is running the conference next year so expect to be called upon again for service.

Secretary's Report: Minutes approved after changing ice skate night start from 6:00 as recorded to 6:30PM.

Treasurer's Report: no report

Vice President/Website: David – Lots of changes to the website – another company is hosting website for free due to non-profit status. New design is more search engine friendly – hits are up. Site is faster and easier to maintain – events calendar is up and running. E-mail pings can now be sent when people sign up the e-mail addresses when events on calendar change. Online membership is active with a PayPal connection. Fliers will be things of the past now that we have this fully functional website. This will save printing money that can be put into other areas.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Coordinator: Nancy – Things are busy and stressful with lots of questions and not all the answers are available. More details will be forthcoming in the near future – April 23rd is the date for the meeting at Shaw Road from 7-8:00PM. School sites are not confirmed at this time. Letters have been sent to the students scoring at the top of the WASL last year. Word of mouth is advocated by the ABC board. Forty-four forms have come in with only 2 responding “no” to continuing on in QUEST. Some pull-out 5th graders won't change schools due to the need to finish out their elementary education in their home school. Nancy speculates the district will re-negotiate with the PEA regarding class size. Transportation is pretty much worked out but staffing is another major issue still to be finalized. Each grade should offer 84 slots to gifted students. Brian Fox is still conferring with principals about the QUEST plan. The plan will then be discussed with elementary staff and a decision made in the near future. Due date for blue forms is now May 1. Nancy attended a meeting on the World Conference. The student conference is geared for teens and very expensive. The summer option is EduFest in Boise, ID, the last week of July. They have a strong parent day. Right now the World Conference is shy on detail and what is offered now seems geared for educators, not parents. It's in Vancouver, BC.

Family Events: Ice skating is Thursday at 6:30-8:00PM.

Fundraising: Kirby will handle GiftCents for this spring. Christine will get the info packet along with the Classy Chassis opportunity to her. First grade Read-A-Thon is history – we will see the returns in the near future. Nancy is crazy with the academic budget stuff so the auction is on the back burner waiting for parents to step up. A letter needs to go out for donations – we only have 15 business donations so far. Class baskets need to be put together if they are going to be offered. David can put the donation form and a notice on the website. The follow-up phone call to the businesses is so important – is this happening? Christine will call Cindy to find out if this is, or has happened. The class baskets & last minute donations were auctioned live & the remainder went on the website.

Legislative: David reporting for Marcia – He has been to Olympia to testify a couple of times this month. He did thank the legislators for including GE in the budget. Pam Roach called

Christine with a positive message during her Hawaiian vacation. One day David was able to testify at 2 hearings in one afternoon – both scheduled for 1:30! Talks are mostly closed-door now in Olympia. The last day of the session is the 26th so decisions should be made soon.

Membership: no report

Newsletter: see above and below for notes – The current deadline is April 8 but this newsletter is canceled. Much discussion ensued about the need for a paper newsletter. No definitive decision was made but it was mentioned that maybe a once yearly packet with a big newsletter and all the resources/info included go out.

Public Relations/Secondary Schools: no report

School Board: no report

Teacher's Rep: Nancy reported the desire to link the SWIFT website to the ABC website.

Volunteer Coordinator: no report

Communications: Amy – We brainstormed ideas for getting parents to the website. Christine advocates offering something for free to entice parents. E-mails have slowed down! Ice skate reminder will go out tonight. The “Feel-Good” e-mail will be out soon also – copies have already been sent to Nancy, Brian & Tony Apostle.

OLD BUSINESS

- Nomination Committee progress: Eric received one e-mail so far. Membership is potentially open – Ronda will do it if no one else steps up. Family Events may be open. Newsletter (it most likely will be an e-letter but will still need someone to put it together) is open. Eric will do whatever is needed but he isn't interested in membership or fundraising. He is throwing in his hat for VP. Kirby will take membership. All names need to be presented at the open house and voted on.
- 1st Grade parent night was great. Good sign up for Amy but not many new membership forms.
- Safeway (not going to happen this year)

NEW BUSINESS

- New Program Info Meeting for Parents April 23, 7-8:00PM, Shaw Road Elementary. Parent oriented – daycare not provided.
- May Carnival Open House: more information to come.

Meeting adjourned 8:20pm.

Next Meeting May 5, 6pm @ TBD