



## **Edmonds Elementary PTA**

### **General Meeting Minutes 1/21/2010**

**7:00 pm in the library; Internet Safety Meeting at 6:00 pm**

#### **Call to Order by M. Fellows**

Welcome & Introductions of members

Volunteer sign-up boards were sent around for the events/committees listed below.

#### **Group Discussion**

Kids and computers; a further discussion on the presentation given by Officer Smith.

Ideas for helping kids stay safe on the internet:

- Visit [Netsmartz411.com](http://Netsmartz411.com) online which offers parent resources.
- Use contracts in your home that lay out boundaries. S. Smith, our school librarian, commented that contracts are used in the school and believes the form is posted online.
- R. Hehn uses "safe search" rather than the regular Google search engine
- M. Fellows & P. Watridge both recommended Net Nanny which is an inexpensive filtering system you can install on your computer.
- Short discussion about cyber-bullying & consequences
- D. Pierce and others recommended using [commonsensemedia.org](http://commonsensemedia.org), which is a site that informs parents of safe sites, detailed movie ratings (including count of swear words, smoking encounters, etc.)
- There was a general concern for parents who are not familiar with computers and how to set controls. B. Whitney suggested a parent group be formed. D. Harvey had made comments in the prior meeting regarding setting up email for kids & it would be helpful to have someone who could demonstrate how that works.

#### **Announcements**

The pending lawsuit in our state against the lack of school funding has been delayed.

The ruling is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### **Board Report**

Read-a-thon support :

- the month of February
- Mrs. Heineken is taking over with student council
- PTA usually provides Edmonds Book Shop gift card for top class

Haiti Relief Fund support :

- started yesterday, student council is collection through PTA
- there will be opportunities to give at BINGO night tomorrow

Treasurer's Report:

- We've had some additions this month; ~\$400 BoxTops, PACE is up to ~\$900
- Harvest Festival had earned roughly \$600+ and that money is being used to support other activities like BINGO night and the end of the year BBQ

## Principal's Report by M. Oliver

Focus on a playground incident that occurred at EE last week.

- There is no intent to leave parents uninformed, rather to protect privacy of those involved
- In brief, a tag game turned into a 3 minute long incident where a child on the ground was the target of roughhousing. Tag is usually not allowed on school grounds. The children directly involved were 3rd graders.
- Edmonds Elementary families are wonderful in that all the families involved have stepped up to the plate and taken responsibility for their children's actions.
- With permission from the injured student's mother, Melissa revealed the injured student's name was [victim's name] and that [victim] is doing OK, but has blurred vision at times. Counseling was offered, but the parents have another resource.
- M. Oliver learned through interviewing that 5 adults were present on the playground at the time which is more than usual (3 regulars, Orca Club, and a WatchDog present)
- M. Oliver had a discussion with all students at lunch. Students were given option to talk to her or Mrs. Harris (school counselor). The students know that safety is priority. Much emphasis was put on empathy and also on the role of a bystander (responsibility to tell adults when something bad is happening).
- Teachers will have training by behavior experts rather than the scheduled assessment lecture during the non-student day next week.
- There is a lot of focus being put on helping the kids heal as an alternative to punishing
- Steps taken to address the situation:
  - A. Marilyn Harris, School Psychologist, is going to co-teach with teachers to help reinforce things like what to do when one is a "bystander", how to respect others, etc. They will focus on the 3rd grade classes to start but will also go to all classes.
  - B. Looking at maybe having students help to patrol the playground during recess times. These students would rotate so that the students performing these duties do not get labeled as "police"
  - C. M. Oliver to address the assembly on Friday Jan. 22.

### Discussion followed:

C. Yeakel commented that the students are adjusting & welcoming the return of the injured student. She also commented that one motto in their classroom is "mistakes are where the learning goes".

C. Baran commented that it seems like there is a lot of talk about everyone else except [victim's name]. How is [victim] doing both physically and mentally?

M. Oliver responded that [victim's name] was taken to the office and given the ice needed for [victim's] head. [Victim] did have a CAT scan done and continues to suffer from blurred vision and headaches. [Victim] returned back to school on Tuesday. 1st recess went well, but had some trouble emotionally during the 2nd recess so [victim] went home.

C. Baran asked how [victim] was emotionally handling being back at school with the kids that attacked [victim]?

M. Oliver noted that 2 kids visited [victim's name] home on the weekend. The other kids have not seen [victim] at school yet. Melissa plans to let the children meet with [victim's name] one-on-one away from a class environment to ease the amount of discomfort for the children involved.

C. Davies asked if there is some language you can provide so that we can help to answer the question "why did it happen" to our children?

M. Oliver using the example of when you play with your sibling, in a moment things can change from fun play to someone getting hurt. It's hard to explain because the children doing the attacking are usually very good students that do not usually get into trouble. To explain or to understand why they did such things is difficult.

S. Payte commented on the helpfulness of providing support for all the students affected, from the bystanders to the children directly involved.

D. Pierce commented and thanked M. Oliver for handling the situation with such concern and compassion for the students involved.

### **Events/Committees**

Clip Boards went around earlier. We still need help with the following:

- BINGO Night – tomorrow!
- Book Fair – runs May 10 – 14<sup>th</sup>
- ORCA Fund Review – your input needed!
- Jog-a-thon – committee meets January 27<sup>th</sup> in the evening.
- Nominating committee. Bylaws call for 3 members, not including the president.

### **Approval of minutes from November meeting**

(December: informal meeting for wrapping gifts for the student council drive & a cookie exchange, no formal business)

- 1<sup>st</sup> by D. Pierce, 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Oliver & C. Baran
- All in Favor, passed.

### **Other Comments:**

Boxtops, P. Frank: Push after Bingo Night. February collection date is approaching.  
Campbell's Labels, M. Henderson. Order being placed this weekend for playground equipment!

Musical, D. Pierce: PTA having bake sale, dates changed, open night - Wed Feb 24  
CPA report, S. Payte: more focus on revenue enhancements to bridge the gap of 6 million dollars. No funds for afterschool activities since 2002.

STARS auction coming up soon! Weekend of April 15<sup>th</sup>, new venue, reduced ticket price of \$25. More donations needed! The more the better items, better! Even if you have unopened stationary, send it!

### **Adjournment**

***Next Meeting February 18, 2010, 7:00 pm, school library***