

**Edmonds Elementary PTA
General Meeting Minutes 11/19/2009**

Call to order by M. Fellows

Introductions

Stephanie Smith – our new EE librarian

She is here afternoons; please stop by to say HI and to ask for any recommendations for your children's reading or to volunteer.

Announcements

- Focus on KIDS Day - Monday, January 18, 2010- morning
Day off school, kick off for new state legislators, rally on the capitol steps, fund our future. Look for more information as the date approaches.
- Clipboards passed around: BINGO planning, BINGO event staff
Coming up in January, email if interested
- Volunteers needed! Campbell's grant/ ASB gift drive
B. Christman volunteered. Others please bring tape, gifts, wrapping paper, etc.
D. Pierce volunteered to do the paperwork for the Campbell's grant

*STARS: C.Davies, the auction is scaled down this year, pushing for donations of experiences with staff and/or parents, being held at the Edmonds Yacht Club. \$14K available for fall grants, 20K in requests were turned in.

Directories are going out tomorrow (11/20)!

New Everyday Ways – C. Davies

B. Christman set up a Shakley account, 5-50% donation from the company made when parents make purchases, pamphlets & products available for viewing after the meeting.

Speaker, Cynthia Nelson. February 2010 Levy for our schools.

C. Nelson, speech as a district tech. director for the past 15 yrs

Q: How much money does it take to provide educational services for students?

Across the state districts are funded at different rates based on property taxes

How? Every 2 years the district has a levy that asks to cover 20% of the budget

85% of the entire budget covers salary and benefits alone

If that 20% from the levy goes away, what is left?!? No more copies!

20% of our budget in Edmonds is 35million dollars

- Tax rate in our district is remaining the same
Everyone's property value is added and then they come up with a rate per 1K (\$3.24 in Edmonds)
- This is NOT a new tax, it's a renewal.
- **C.Bartlette: reminder that as parent group we need to get out the word**

Cynthia's speech as a Parent:

It's important that you vote YES! Losing 35million means no athletics, transportation, small schools will not stay, job positions will be cut, and technology in place will go away because it doesn't run by itself.

Citizens for Schools will be making reminder calls to people already on the lists. Data is given based on who turned in ballots and they give another call out to those who would typically vote in favor. This really helps increase the votes!

Q & A Session

- S.Payte. Q: What is the volunteer base like?
A: Many schools come together at EE community college.
- Q: What do we need to have the levy pass?
A: %50 plus 1 needed for levy pass
- D. White. Q: Can you collect ballots and go turn them in?
A: Probably not.
- C.Baran. comment: Last year the funding per student was \$64/per student. It went down to about \$25/per student this year which is roughly \$7,800. That doesn't even cover copies in our building.
- S.Payte. response: That's good info to share with non-parents, esp. since 70 to 80% aren't parents of school children. The elderly need to be encouraged to support us like the community did when they had younger children.
- C.Nelson. Communities without good schools don't draw good neighbors. Schools without arts, athletics, and after-school programs are not attractive. We already know we have a supportive community here in Edmonds; we just need to remind them!
Most votes come in either very early or very late
- P.Watridge. Q: If levy doesn't pass, where does the money go?
A: Back into people's pockets.
- An EE grandma asked, Q: What can I do?
A: Word of mouth! Give school passion a face. People will believe you because they know you and trust you. Don't solicit strangers, it may do more bad than good.

Planning session/brainstorm:

- C. Davies. "Did you vote?" stickers??
- S. Payte. Kids marketed save our music!
- D. White. Add countdown on the webpage
- C. Nelson. We don't do yard signs or buttons because we pull in more "no" votes then wanted. We have to wait until May 25th for a new vote, teachers get lay-off notices on May 15th.
- D.Pierce. Q: What is the questionable demographic? Is getting the word out at the senior center a good idea?
A: if it's one-on-one.
- D.White. Q: How do we sign up for the phone banks?
A: Carol can collect names. Each school is assigned a night.

Final Comments: C.Nelson. Dec 5th HS will be set up and hosting a lego league competition. Also, money is good! Citizens of school can use it for endorsement sheets and mailers and phone banks. It can be supported personally or by businesses.

Website: can be found online by googling

C.Baran. Q: C.Davies, can you write up something for next week newsletter?

G.Frank. Voteforschools.org is the website for the group

New Business

Neighborhood Outreach: Ways to get the word out when there are lock-downs.

Playground Improvements: Ideas to replace some of the equipment on the playground.

Approve minutes from October meeting

C.Baran first, G.Frank second.

All in favor.

Upcoming Events

Nov 17 - Art Walk, S. Payte.

Member social event. Meet at Ombu' for wine and cheese at 6p and head west to the fountain and then south on 5th. They are currently soliciting for children's art walk at Ombu' for that evening – deadline is Dec 6th.

P.Watridge. Can we link with Art Wizards?

Dec 10 - PTA Meeting, P. Frank.

December's meeting will be more fun, less business. We will be meeting earlier for a cookie exchange and will be wrapping presents for the gift drive. Gift drive info is due out next week. Please bring a gift to the meeting, there will be a raffle drawing for a date night out to Daphine's Wine Bar.

Adjournment