

# **Edmonds Elementary PTA**

## **General Meeting Minutes**

### **February 18, 2010**

*M.Fellows is out this evening. She is attending a special family event in CA.  
S. Payte will be filling in in her absence.*

**Call to Order** by S.Payte

## **Announcements**

### **Musical performances** (D.Pierce):

There will be a bake sale and a rose sale each evening (to benefit the PTA). Volunteers are needed for baking or manning the stations. Over 200 tickets have sold already. Assembly performance next Thursday at the gym, 9:30a. Videotaping is being done during that performance.

### **Book Exchange:**

Children brought in old books to share and trade. It was a very fun, free event that sparked a lot of excitement with the children.

### **STARS Auction:**

April 16<sup>th</sup> at Edmonds Yacht Club. Donations are still needed & tickets are being sold at a reduced price this year.

## **Board Report**

### **Treasurer:**

Yearbooks are on sale! This year they are going to be full-colored! In regards to money, there have been no significant changes in the past month.

### **Secretary:**

Nominations are open for the 2010-2011 PTA board. Our goal for the next year is to expand the board. We'd like to have not only executive positions (ie: President, VP, etc.), but other board positions such as membership, volunteer coordinator, and so on. If you are interested in running, you need not run for a specific role. Non-executive roles can be determined post-voting. Please consider your involvement and encourage anyone whom you might think would be a good fit for our team. We also need to develop a nominations committee, so if anyone is interested, please contact a board member as soon as possible.

## **Principal's Report**

Mrs. Oliver is not with us this evening, she had family event to attend. She wanted to be sure and thank our parents for all the hard work that contribute to passing the levy which passed with a high margin.

## **Featured Topic:** *Fiscal Futures by S.Payte*

S. Payte & D. White have been on the CPC this year, this year it involved school reps and many people who had been on the transportation committee last year. This year they really feel empowered and have had more say in terms of revenues and expenditures.

S. Payte provided a handout with information they have been working on it for several weeks. This year we are facing a huge budget cut (even with the levy passion). Last year all kinds of basics/logical cuts were made, but we're down to "meat & bones" now.

Three top choices for bringing in revenue: advertisements on buses, advertisements at the stadium, and supplemental learning programs. Concept is that outside places is coming in using our facilities and making money off them. The plan is to harness the capacities of our own buildings. Some members of the CPC even suggested Saturday schools or having an afterschool programs. This could be a good source of revenues for WA. Right now, the main goal of CPC is to make recommendations.

S.Payte proved a second paper which was geared at reviewing costs. She feels that all the layers of mandated staffing are just baffling. Please not that Item #2 is mandated by state law. Right now, increasing class sizes is not an option. This would just trigger higher staffing costs. Transportation is not on this list. It's important to not that many other districts have eliminated busing altogether. In her opinion, bussing doesn't affect the children's quality of learning the way other cuts would, though there is a trickle down affect. We really are down to the bare bones and anything that is not mandated will be looked at. One interesting remark on the date, there is one security person for the entire district. Printing services are also being looked at as something to do "out-of-house." Keep in mind that something that has a large value (dollar-wise) will ultimately be controversial (ie: athletics, music). Revenue driven items listed: these items fund themselves. Food services paid for itself this year.

D. White is not here with us this evening, but she really wanted input from parents in the community. No matter how hard you try to affect the children, it will hit and hard choices need to be made when there is more than two million dollar cut coming.

### **Group Discussion Followed:**

A member had asked if anyone knew the status on the WA state lawsuit that involves funding education. It was believed that it may still be "in the air" or ready to go back and forth with appeals. In any event, a lawsuit sends a message to start looking at it, but we won't see anything in terms of monetary benefit for at least 3-5 years.

Suggestions: Admin. positions to be cut out and district to provide a volunteer group coordinator. We need to help and be in the classrooms. Teachers are burnt out and not providing afterschool services the way they were able to in the past.

Big point S.Payte would like to make, two million dollars was added from one year concession. We'll just have to accept that needs to happen again. The district won't be able to pay for field trips and fringes. Where else will we cut?

Transportation currently costs our district four million dollars each year. Some mandates would need to be considered like special needs, but in general this might be our best place to look.

What about Choice schools? One is breaking even, one extremely bad (same that send all their kids to a camp during the week of bus counts). B. Whitney "you can get busing from a choice school to any school in the district. This is an issue that is supposed to be under review.

V. Olson expressed concerns about geography, safety, and legality n to be included in the discussion about bussing.

S. Payte. "Well, you won get all 4 million, but what if you can bring in a million or two?"

C. Baran. added a related note with the choice schools in regard to kindergarten registration. According to her, Choice were given notice of acceptance at the end of Jan/Feb and guaranteed. We all have to wait to April 9<sup>th</sup>. The reasoning from the Superintendent is that because of the budget cuts, we won't know if there will be full day kindergarten cuts. It's really not fair that full day is guaranteed at choice schools. Nik said he couldn't give a definite answer either way.

B. Whitney. "He doesn't want to tell you." V. Olson commented that it's interesting to mention that his kids are at Maplewood.

C. Baran. The main point: children in choice school are getting extra funding. Madrona starts music in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, we start in 5<sup>th</sup>. District money is supporting this. "Let's say, make it fair across the board."

S. Payte. "We really need to look at making equitable choices."

Kim stated that whether you are choice or not, if a certain amt. of money is budgeted for a program, if the parents at the choice want to give \$, more power to them.

B. Whitney. Funding extra money? It seems like the same sort of issues should be happening all across the board.

S. Payte. Yeah, move to "Pay to Play"

M. Merrill. An interesting note is that Madrona's 1<sup>st</sup> Jog-a-thon brought in \$43K. But what I want to know is "what else could they possibly cut here at EE?"

B. Whitney. What could they cut from our school? Our school nurse is here only one day a week.

S. Payte. Keep in mind that there is an open transfer policy. We can put our application to go somewhere. They are talking about being more lenient. This year is more about community relations.

What about Re-establishing boundaries. Why wouldn't we want to readdress? Other schools are over capacity right now.

V. Olson. Talk about the idea of expanding Maplewood campus to our school. Would the parents support it? West campus, same administrative positions. We have this great playground here, it would be great for younger students. Just an idea!

There was brief discussion in regard to alternative funding sources and we were over the one hour time frame.

## **New Business**

Boxtop Promotion Coordinator. We need one!

Neighbor Relations. Harriet delivered flowers and thanked the surrounding homes.

Teacher Luncheon – Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>! We are thinking about having a fiesta themed luncheon. Please sign up to bring something.

Internet Safety follow up (table this for another time.)

## **Approval of the minutes from our January general meeting**

First, D. Pierce.

Second, M.Merril.

All in Favor.

## **Adjournment**