

ELHS Parent Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Business Meeting commenced 6 pm

Present: Andy Korest, Lural Baltimore, Jeanne Maguire, Shan Sweitzer, Esther Garfield, Tessie Cardenas, Nancy Schertzing, Yvette Collins, Donna Rich-Kaplowitz, John Brandenburg

I. Welcome and Introductions

Group reviewed communications from teachers, thanking council for funds.

II. March minutes unavailable for approval. April agenda approved.

III. ELHS Principal Report – J. Brandenburg

Described change to annual awards assembly that will include students in all 4 grades, elevate the GPA requirements to scholar athlete awards, add a thespian category, and have each teacher select 3 ‘excellence award’ students, one of which would be based on TURF criteria rather than academic criteria. New senior awards established with a permanent plaque recognizing recipients. Event geared to be attended towards students, though parents are still welcome to come sit in the balcony.

Discussed the “professional learning community” concept and the possibilities being presented to ELHS staff to adjust culturally to a more collegial teaching environment.

Answered questions concerning the timing and process of replacement of our 2 retiring teachers – Ms Wojtowicz and Mr Englehart. Over 400 resumes/applications received. Posting ends next Friday. John is narrowing down the resumes to a more focused number that is presented to the interview committee. Hopes to have 2 teachers chosen by start of June. Discussion about the need to broaden the diversity of our teacher base at the H S; suggestion that the interview committee include a person of color.

IV. BOE Report – D. Rich-Kaplowitz

Reviewed a number of items including

- bid received on Timberlane property with a decision date of May 9; affects location of central office staff and busses.
- consideration of privatization of busses with a decision to be made next week; various factors regarding this decision were reviewed and discussed; question asked regarding possibility of leasing busses but retaining the employees under ELPS
- Board consultant to review and advise group next month
- Board is using new format for meeting discussions; every other meeting will be round table format with no voting
- explored data surrounding school of choice students to determine/rule out if there was a correlation between increase in SOC to 20% and trends in the district; info indicated that the 2 groups do not vary by any strong degree
- contemplating survey about bond proposal; tentative plans to approach public with a proposal next February
- new format required for superintendent evaluation

As a separate note, Donna informed the group about an awards event at MSU's RCAF where 2 H S club efforts are being recognized – Amnesty Int'l and Gay Straight Alliance; H S council members are welcomed to attend – Snyder-Phillips Hall 8 – 9:30 am on Monday, April 30

V. District Parent Council – J. Maguire (in Elizabeth's absence)

Discussions have focused on instruction for accelerated learners and how it relates to the differentiated teaching methods in the district; DPC is pushing for better training of teachers in this specific area and for evaluations to include assessment of effective delivery of this model. Has created a task force to design exit surveys to give to families who leave the district prior to 12th grade. Is continuing to monitor district developments regarding the need for emergency protocol and certified CPR individuals in each of the 8 buildings.

VI. Treasurer's Report – A. Korest

Reviewed ytd income report; motions made and accepted to pay \$100 to EL Ed Foundation in honor of the 2 retiring teachers and to pay \$160 into the teacher grant account to fund request from Psychology teacher, Anita Kelley, used to purchase Styrofoam balls for class project. Report approved.

VII. Nominations

Nominations process for next year discussed. This week's eblast will invite parents to submit their name for consideration; group can consider candidates, which may include those who want to repeat in their position, at the May council meeting.

VIII. New Business

Group agreed that the "Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda" panel should be presented at the May 15 meeting, ideally with a few students and a few parents. They would cover the trials and triumphs of the college application process.

Next and final parent council meeting: 7 pm on May 15 in the HUB