

TAYLOR MIDDLE SCHOOL
General PTA Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order at **7:05 p.m.** and the group was welcomed. Officers and administrators in attendance included the following: David Erwin, Donna Faber, Brenda MacDevitt, Natalie Habash, Kim McDowell, Karen Morgan, Joe Gibbs, Aline Lee, Kathi Kinney, Moe Pelayo, Judy Miyake-Wong – all other attendees signed in on an attendance sheet.



PTA President, Brenda MacDevitt thanked everyone for coming. Turn out was good!

Approval of Last General Meeting Minutes – the motion to approve was made by Natalie Esposto and seconded by Leticia Moloney. Everyone was in favor, none opposed, and so they were entered into the record.

Reports of Officers

1. **PTA Membership** (Christine Lee) -- our preliminary numbers are about 400, up from about 360 from last year, and they're still coming in.
2. **Box Tops Campaign** (Judy Miyake-Wong) -- is announcing this on KTLR. Brenda explained what they are. They go in 6th and 7th grade core classes, and 8th grade English classes. There is also a box in the office. We made \$850 last year, and we can make more. This is a year long effort that yields money effortlessly.
3. **Discussion of Lucky's card** (Leticia Moloney) -- Leticia is last year's chair person. Last year we made \$214.45 free money just by using it. It can be used at any Lucky's, and there are other valid stores listed on the back of the card itself. Leticia gets notification of what is accumulated once per year. Natalie suggested we might have a "Lucky's Day", which would be good near the holidays, for major shopping or the super bowl or the world series. It's a good blog topic also (If you don't have a card pick one up in the office).
4. **Escript** -- We don't have a chairperson yet, but we're looking for one. We get the money from this electronically on a monthly basis. Last year it was about \$1,500. Each of us updates on line and must do so on a yearly basis, once per year.
5. **Office Depot and Target Cards** will give Taylor credit, too. Tell Office Deposit before you ring up your purchase.
6. **We Need You Flyers** (one time donation) --this is a big fund raising effort that we rely on. We made \$16,434 last year. We haven't broken it down yet, but we know we are down on our numbers. The PTA votes where that money goes, and this time it is the principal discretion fund for LCD projectors and document cameras. Mr. Erwin explained how successfully they are used. A list of need is pending. Only teachers who want the new technology will receive it.
7. **PTA Website** — Things that need to go on the website can be emailed to Brenda for approval. There are many things on there, and it will be updated frequently. It's very informative.
8. **Calendar Update** (Aline Lee) – Went through some of the upcoming events. Next Wednesday is Back to School night, and the teacher's luncheon is upcoming. The calendar will be posted on the PTA website when it is complete.
9. **Giftwrap Fundraiser** is for ASB, All Student Body, for student government or leadership. The flyers and information should have better explained was ASB is, as it wasn't clear on the email, so we'll be more certain to highlight these things going forward. The money raised stays with that class through 8th grade.
10. **Big Fund Raiser** (Brenda MacDevitt) -- is February 27, 2010, and we need a chair. This effort won't have to be recreated from scratch, as there is a binder with everything in it. Last year we made \$14,095 total revenue and expenses were \$5,059, so we made almost \$9,000. Natalie heard that parents had a lot of fun with the teachers who were very involved. Teachers had a lot of fun, and told Kathy they wanted to do it again. Maribelle Silva and Tony Silva (Mirabelle was at the meeting) have volunteered to be the event's deejay for free. Thank you so much!

Board Introductions -- Brenda made introductions around the table. Two positions are available: Vice President and Parliamentarian. Please contact Brenda if you are interested in being a part of what we're

doing. We're currently finalizing volunteer chair positions, and Aline will reach out to everyone in her capacity as volunteer coordinator.

Treasurer's Report (Kathy Kenny)

1. Very little August activity.
2. Will have more to present at October meeting.
3. Numbers will be a bit down from last year due to Maze day, but we still have an opportunity to raise more at Back to School Night.
4. Motion to accept treasurer's report was made by Tammie McGee and seconded by Natalie Esposto. Voted in with no opposition and entered into the record.

Principal's Report (Dave Erwin)

1. There was an initial report on what enhancements have been made using PTA funds moved to the principal's discretionary account (used to fund the homework center). The next wish list item he is working on is obtaining LCD Projectors and Document Cameras. These provide really cool interconnectivity with dvd's and the internet, and papers the kids are working on. A document camera and lcd projector is about \$1,000 each.
2. There was a good Maze day turn out with first year of on-line documents. We learned a lot about that so will know how to make it better next year.
3. Respect week is happening now, and it started off with a very powerful guest speaker on Civil Rights, who provided the type of historical perspective that is typically introduced to students in high school. Day 2 was a block schedule, doing cultural cooking and things like that.
4. Gift Wrap assembly was done for the Associated Student Body.
5. Homework Center ... we lost one hour on Tuesday and one hour on Fridays in the morning. Otherwise, we're almost funding where we were before, and we do have teachers there helping with homework (as opposed to an attendant).
6. Did a fabulous emergency drill, and experienced great success. Everyone was in their place within 5 minutes.
7. Mr. Erwin and school administrators had been visiting classrooms and giving presentations on rules and expectations, the Bull Dog code of conduct.
8. The school's API was increased by 17 points. The California Department of Ed posts the API. Ours is at 856, which is up 17, a statistical significance, from last year. The entire district went up, and Taylor is in the middle. Good job!
9. Back to School on September 24 ... we will be asking for more donations to attempt to make up the funding level we didn't achieve on Maze Day. It's at 6:00 pm in the auditorium. We Need You flyers will go out on Listserv and flyers will be available that night.
10. Red Ribbon Week is coming up in October and will culminate with the first school dance on October 23. That dance comes out after the first loss of privilege list is published. First year 6th graders are allowed to go, so it's happening at 5pm which is earlier. This will increase our attendance. Having it earlier is safer, as well.
11. The Halloween Parade on October 30. Halloween is on Saturday. Watch out!
12. We need parents for Schoolside council. Please see Mr. Erwin to vote that in. It's a council that meets to work on the single plan for student achievement, a document reviewed as to how we teach the subjects, how we reach ELL students, struggling readers, etc. We write the plan to fit categorical funding, which is money you can only spend a certain way. Meetings are on Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30pm, but that is flexible, once a month, and not in December.
13. ListServ – if you haven't received email messages and want to, go to the Taylor Middle School website, the parent section, and use the link to send an email. Write "Listserv" in your subject line and the district will add your name. Entering names into the database must be done by a school official. We can't have a volunteer do it because it's confidential information. This was previously explored.

Millbrae Education Foundation (MEF) (Natalie Esposto, Taylor School liaison for MEF) – The MEF's goal is to enhance children's education. It will make a positive difference as a foundation by providing funding for salaries, and that's what makes MEF different from the PTA. MEF works hand in hand with the PTA, however. This year, MEF is asking for a \$450 donation per student compared to Burlingame asking for \$600 per student. MEF wants to save the music program. Teachers' aids are also really necessary, which is also part of what they're paying for. Natalie was a very passionate speaker!

Dr. Shirley Martin, Superintendent, Guest Speaker –

1. Thanks the foundation for their contribution.
2. It takes a village to raise a child, which is testified to by our test scores. Mills has the highest API scores in the county, and the majority of those kids come from Taylor. They get a good foundation here.
3. Dr. Martin expressed thanks for measure X and the bond, thanking the community that gave us the mandate. The district has a facilities committee, helping with program manager interview, and now has construction happening in the district. Is also currently doing a needs assessment. The district has hired BECIGM Architectural firm because some of the projects need an architect.
4. Some of the work was done this summer, and reviewed safety issues, trip and falls, concrete that is parted, danger areas. They looked at every school in order to address safety issues. Green Hills got new carpet over the summer in all the classrooms, too. In some portables, roofing patchwork was done, and they are working on the fields.
5. Summer school went well.
6. Did a pre-K summer school pilot at Lomita Park.
7. They will do a full day kindergarten pilot at Green Hills and Lomita.
8. Passed a board policy, which is a first step, for parents to give permission for district to give email information to different organizations. Very good turnout.
9. Continuing communication with website, and the new Influenza Epidemic website. Special Ed director, Susan Palmer, is in charge. Have their newsletter going out, it's home grown, and has great information, to go out on ListServ.
10. Enrollment went up slightly, which is exciting, as we were expecting it not to be that high when we did the projections (also revenue and teachers), so this is a good thing.

Did everybody sign in?

The next meeting is on October 15, 2009 at 7:00 pm. Subject: School Safety.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

