

LECS SAC Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2009, 6:00-7:20
School Library

Agenda:

Minutes
Director's report
Committee reports
Old Business
New Business

Members Present: Sharon Morell, Jillian Friedman, John Mays, Ronnie DeNoia, Carol Dierksen, DeVonna Craner, Greg Mellowe, and Carrin Hahn

Minutes Recorded By: Carrin Hahn

Sharon Morell called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

The minutes from December were read and approved.

LECS Director's Report, reported and written by Ronnie DeNoia

Building: The Downtown Baptist Church is responding to the proposal that LECS submitted and the Board President, Charles Frederick, expected the response within 5 days. It appears that they have disclosed with the Wellesley Development Center who will be relocating there during the construction of the Performing Arts Center, that LECS will be moving into the building. LECS continues to pursue other locations including the present location. Charles has met with Susan Morris and they have even discussed numbers. The school Foundation would need an additional \$600,000 to meet the required down payment.

Financial: The end of the year push to the new parents for contributions to the Foundation netted an excess of \$4,000. That amount brings us back over \$90,000. Board members will be following up with families who have not donated as of yet.

Calendar:

Jan 9	Geography Bee	Matt Shinner wins first place again; Evelyn Beard-second place
Jan 15	Science Fair	
Jan 16	MLK, Jr Read In	
Jan 17	MLK, Jr Holiday No school	
Jan 20	Inauguration-student viewing	
Jan 21	Board Meeting	

Misc.: Brian Gearhardt has installed a new outlet so that we can activate our student check-out system that Mrs. Shinner wrote. I have met with Rick Roach to express LECS' desire to lease any building that OCPS will close due to budgetary constraints. Cherokee, Lake Como, Ferncreek are the preferred locations.

Pressing Issue: What can we do as a school/SAC etc. to address the education cuts in Tallahassee. I have reached out to PTSA, CTA and LWV and only received a response from LWV. Who can we call or contact? Huge cuts, huge frustrations, it is critical that the stakeholders mobilize to address these cuts and not take them as herded sheep.

Fund Raising: Silent Auction goes live on 4/3/09 for three weeks. We have crafted a letter asking for donations and providing for donors to get an on-line presence through advertising. There will also be an advertising space available for sponsors that should cover the cost of the site.

- Ronnie said the most pressing issue of the evening was about events taking place in Tallahassee. At the special session, the legislators are working on figuring out the new budget based on the shortfall. Education is supposed to take a hit; the proposal is to cut \$140 per student. Ronnie said she has been on the computer e-mailing her peers at the charter school, other principals and the League of Women Voters. Only the charter school people responded by saying that they would contribute money to help buy an ad in the newspaper to express the outrage that the teachers, parents, and other people involved in education should feel. There was much discussion about the reasons why people aren't outraged about education being cut yet again and about the reasons behind the shortfall. Ronnie talked about trying to get a number of people to go to Tallahassee to protest. In the end, it was suggested that the students write letters and the parents do an e-mail campaign to tell the legislators how bad it would be if they cut the education budget. Greg suggested that students send letters to the district offices while the legislators are between sessions. Greg said he would try to find out who is the Education Chair in the session. Greg also gave Carrin the website to find people to write to and their addresses: www.leg.state.fl.us (Florida Sunshine).
- Jillian asked about where people get applications for the high school. Ronnie said she or Maria can give them out from the office or Ronnie can e-mail them to people.

Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee, reported by Ronnie DeNoia

- Ronnie and Sharon had to rewrite the letter soliciting donations for the Silent Auction. This year, when companies make a donation, their website will appear as a link, so the company will get some free advertising.
- The Silent Auction goes live on April 3, and the plan is for it to be online for three to four weeks. There was some discussion about staggering the closing of bids on some of the items so that people could still bid on other items if their first choice item was sold to someone else.
- Ronnie also explained some of how the advertising works.

After School Committee, reported by Carol Dierksen

- Carol said she had nothing to report.

Technology Committee, reported by John Mays

- John had nothing to report.

Business Partners Committee, reported by DeVonna Craner

- DeVonna had nothing new to report.

Curriculum Committee, reported by Jillian Friedman and Greg Mellowe

- Jillian asked if SAC members needed more time before discussing the social studies issue. Ronnie said that she hasn't had time to meet with Mrs. Joerg, so she would

rather wait until the February meeting. Ronnie also said she would give Mrs. Joerg time to prepare any information she would need to present to Ronnie.

Old Business

- Jillian said that the document camera is REALLY COOL! She has used it for both writing and reading. Sharon saw an example of it in use in Jillian's class today when she observed Jillian's students looking at the words as Jillian did a read-aloud.
- Sharon reported that the final book fair tally is \$1,300! She gave kudos to Mrs. Nater for running such a great book fair again. There was some discussion about how that money was once designated for a guest author, and Jillian said she would like to talk to Michele, but she thinks they would still like to invite an author. Some people had suggestions for different authors and ideas for how to invite an author who will already be in FL to come visit.
- Greg asked if that money needs to be used for any crises instead, and Ronnie answered that there are no crises here (yet).

New Business

- Sharon said that it is school survey time. The survey needs to be realigned so that all of the questions are the same on the surveys. Ronnie said that this survey is different from the one that parents filled out at report card conference time (that one was for the School Improvement Plan).
- Carrin wanted to give a heads-up that she would have the staff proposal for the calendar for 2009-2010 for the February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 2, 2009, in the school library.