

Parent Advisory Council

Minutes from Thursday March 3, 2011
Submitted by Gail Robinson

In Attendance: Lisa Henry, Melony Miller, Tom Major, Dorothy Hudson, Wanda Fernandez, Gail Robinson, Bruce Flashnick, Maria Collum, Kathryn Copeland, Chris Winkler, Danielle Cevallos

Lisa Henry gave welcome and updates.

Discussions followed on:

alaG - March 17th - alaG is Gala backwards. Lisa reviewed the night's agenda and the layout of the show case rooms. Students volunteering that night can either wear a Glenforest uniform, game shirts/khakis or dress clothes. Lisa explained that Alag is our major fundraiser for generating new community sponsors for scholarships. Parents were asked to think of any business contacts that could purchase the few remaining sponsor tables. Maria Collum is helping improve the school entrance and halls with flowers, plants and minor changes. It was agreed that the school's appearance that night is very important and plans are in the works to spruce it up.

Chili Cook Off April 16th

West Columbia Metro Rotary is handling the cook off - media, participants, and logistics. Last year's proceeds to GF were approximately \$10,000.

During the cook off, Glenforest will be holding a silent auction in the gym. Requests for donations were included in the student's orange folders followed up with emails. It was suggested that interesting pieces of old furniture, new auction items or monetary donations be directed to PTSO President, Mary Brantner.

Maria Collum has ideas for a comprehensive landscaping plan. This plan would include butterfly gardens, planter beds, local sponsors and an ongoing participation from GF students. The sluggish economy has hindered the school greenhouse project but there may be a local sponsor with renewed interest.

Tom Major suggested that a list of immediate needs be distributed to the parents. We should ask parents to share their skills in such areas as painting, landscaping and maintenance. It was also suggested to ask teachers for their ideas, include them in the planning because they are a wealth of information when it comes to school needs.

Bruce Flashnick, who handles the GF webpage, suggested using the site to update donation lists, activities on the calendar, etc. Interested parents can assist with updates with an editor's login code. Contact Bruce for more information.

Chris Winkler shared background on the school's history and the current financial situation. He also reported that we have new families enrolled as well as families on a waiting list. Note cards were distributed so a personal welcome could be sent to the new families. Everyone was in agreement that new families need to feel welcomed and part of the school family.

Other areas of discussion:

- High School students are job shadowing during Spring Experience Week
- April 30th prom could use food donations.
- June 2 Wacky Olympics - Adult volunteers are needed to help with activities.
- Maria Collum has been keeping the outside sign up to date. (Thank you!!)
- Start a parents' wish list
- Adopt a project or Sponsor a Phase - allowing a choice in their level of donation - along with recognition.
- Get parents excited about Glenforest and keep them involved.
- Use website for updating donations
- Check into ways of advertising our summer camps - billboards, TV and media outlets, pediatrician offices, SC Mental Health bulletin board