

Galway Elementary PTA  
Meeting Minutes  
As of November 2, 2005

CALL TO ORDER at 7:38 by PTA co-President, Debbie VanDemark

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the October meeting were approved as distributed on a motion by Nina.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Debbie reminded the group to sign up for the Galway List-Serve. She also, thanked all the parents who assisted with the Sock Hop and the Sally Foster distribution.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Magnet Program - Ms. Ffolkes said that there is a push to get information on the middle school magnet program out early to all students. They will be talking to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Meetings are being held by the county to help parents complete the application.

Susan Parks will be back soon.

Galway Modernization - Ms. Ffolkes will be meeting with the PTA officers to discuss the Galway modernization. She spoke with the Central Office and noted that Galway is listed as "recommended" instead of "approved". Also the actual meetings with the architectures have been held up. There will be a public hearing on Capital Improvements. If the PTA wants to speak at the hearing, they will need to sign up through the clerk, and the statement to be made has to be submitted to the Board prior to the hearing date. A discussion ensued on some of the reasons that the Galway renovation should stay on schedule, as well as concerns that the Fairland holding facility may be too small. Once the modernization meetings start up again, information will be sent out to parents.

Grading/Reporting – Meetings were held for grades 1 & 2 parents on the new report cards. There was not a big turn out. Another meeting will be held after report cards are sent out.

ASST. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Reinke said that another car had been broken into and a stereo stolen. Police have included Galway on their p.m. run; however, it is just a quick run through. Mr. Reinke is trying to get the police to remain a bit longer on the p.m. run. Ms. Ffolkes asked for surveillance cameras, but Officer Stevens has said that the school will not get them. Question was asked whether with the modernization effort windows could be put on the side of the building facing the parking lots. Ms. Ffolkes said that she would check the renovation plans. Another question was whether MCPS has a solution for this problem. Ms. Ffolkes said that all three incidents had been

reported to the MCPS safety Security Officer, Ellen Carroll. Ms. Ffolkes added that Officer Stevens said that 4 suspects were apprehended from the earlier incident.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report was presented for discussion. Nina stated that it would be e-mailed. Receipts from Sally Foster totaled \$19,000. This is approximately \$5,000 under goal. The deadline for Welcome Back invoices was 10/31/05. Approximately 10 staff members have not yet submitted invoices. Nina will provide Ms. Ffolkes with a list of the names, and staff will be given until the end of the week to submit invoices.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership – Stands at 191

Beautification – Plan to meet on Saturday, November 12 at 10:00 to clean flower beds and plant spring bulbs and flowers. Cammie asked Ms. Ffolkes for school assistance in trimming the trees and hedges. Estimated cost is \$650. Ms. Ffolkes will check with maintenance. It is likely that the County will send someone out to do this. Cammie also suggested a spring mulch and plant sale as a fundraiser. She will contact the nursery that recently donated plants. Debbie stated that if Sallie Foster met goal we may not need another fundraiser. However, Nina agreed that it would be helpful to have a spring fundraiser. A suggestion was made that the field day shirts should be sold for \$2. over cost, and similarly the Sock Hop and other activities. Debbie reminded the group that the 4<sup>th</sup> graders are asking for a fundraiser to offset the cost of their St. Mary's trip. Nina agreed to pull together suggestions for a spring fundraiser and present at the January PTA meeting.

Yearbook – Cover has been selected and candid and group photos will be done on Dec 5. The yearbook will go to the printers in January.

Consortium – Paint Branch won \$1.4. million in grants.. Paint Branch is also due to get a new building in 2010.

Ways & Means – are within \$500 of goal. After a discussion on returned check fees, a decision was made to raise the returned check fee to \$20, on a 9 to 6 vote.

Handbook – went to printer but changes can be made.

Staff attending the meeting introduced themselves.

Gina said that the PTA/staff dinner will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Menu choices need to be sent in after Thanksgiving.

Susan asked who would be submitting the information to the Board of Education. Per Ms. Ffolkes, the Board wants to hear from parents and the community. Ms. Ffolkes said

that she was willing to work with or help in preparing the communication. Debbie said that she would provide Susan with the letter that was sent last year. A decision was made to send a statement out to the hearing to state that the parents want the school renovation to remain on schedule.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws Approval – state has approved. Signed official copy to be mailed.

Parking Lot – more volunteers are needed. The field officer is being pulled into other schools. Survey is being done and collecting data to determine the information to be provided. There was some discussion on the on-going problems occurring during drop off and pick up. Various suggestions were made including to keep sending reminders on the parking lot rules in the mailings to parents. Also, the question was raised as to whether an inquiry could be made regarding the use of pool parking lot.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Cultural Arts Assembly - According to Michelle, the WPAS concert which is Afro Cuban, will perform at the assembly on Dec 2.

New Technology - Nina stated that Ms. Mulhorn did a computer inventory check. The money in the budget will be spent for upgrades?? According to Ms. Ffolkes, the school has a technology upgrade every 5 years, and a meeting will be held next week to determine what upgrades will be done.

Galway ES Website – Petra offered to help maintain the school website in addition to maintaining the PTA website.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Nina at 8:48 and passed unanimously.