

F.S. Key Elementary School
PTA general meeting
May 21, 2008

Minutes

I. Welcome and approval of minutes

Co-President Marie Collins welcomed the attendees and moved the approval of the minutes of the February 27, 2008, general meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

II. Principal's report

Mr. Landeryou mentioned how proud he was of the students and of the Key School team. The recently held DC CAS standardized test (for 3rd-5th graders) went smoothly. He said the end of the year was a time to celebrate all the hard work over the year.

He brought up the Hawaiian show held by Ms. Caldito's 1st graders and Ms. Linden's Kindergartners. It was Ms. Caldito's 30th Hawaiian show. In attendance were Councilmember Mary Cheh, Gilberto Solano of the mayor's office, and a representative from Senator Daniel Akaka's (D-HI) office.

Mr. Landeryou mentioned that he was graduating his first class this year, which meant that the outgoing members of the 5th grade class were Pre-K students during his first year at Key. He went with them on the class field trip to Gettysburg.

Among the other spring activities are the state reports (which this year covered 43 states), World Family Day, spirit week (the next week), Passport Tuesday (which will be on Namibia), the end of the year picnic, planet day, and 5th grade graduation.

Mr. Landeryou thanked Lori Denham and Todd Stein, the outgoing co-Recording Secretaries, Melissa Mehring, the outgoing KEHP committee chair, Sylvia Becker and Patti Sulser, outgoing members of the LSRT, and Marie Collins, outgoing PTA co-President.

III. LSRT Report

Representing the LSRT were Sylvia Becker, Patti Sulser and Mike Bailey. Sylvia mentioned the successes that the LSRT team had during the year, notably the survey and the implementation of its findings. She mentioned the uncertainty about the new school budget under the new DCPS administration, and said that the LSRT is looking at the new budget. Patti said it was a great experience and thanked everyone.

IV. Treasurer's report

Julie Scott distributed the proposed budget for the 2008-2009 school year, and explained how it compared to the current year. She described how revenues were coming in \$25,000 short for the

current year, but that expenditures were coming in at \$50,000 less than expected. Once all year-end expenses are done, she said she expects a net positive balance of around \$10,000.

Julie described the budget item for surplus spending. Each year the PTA budgets to spend down a certain amount from the PTA's surplus (budgeted for around \$23,000 in the current year). In practice, however, the PTA traditionally brings in more money than budgeted, which increases the surplus. She noted that the current balance in the PTA's bank account is around \$200,000, which is roughly equivalent to one year's budget. She said that seemed about right from a bookkeeping standpoint.

The proposed budget for the 2008-2009 year is \$181,000, which is a slight increase from the current year. Increased revenues are budgeted from the auction, dues and interest income (previously not included as a budget line item). Increased expenses are for field trips and the Green Committee. Expenditures are expected to be reduced for textbooks and staff development (which was the fund-an-item from the auction). Julie noted that the growth in the number of families at Key has increased the overall dues revenues.

There was a motion to approve the proposed budget for 2008-2009, which was seconded and approved.

V. Officer elections

Marie Collins mentioned that the PTA leadership has decided to reduce the number of general PTA meetings during the year from four to three, following a determination that such an act did not require revision of the PTA by-laws. This decision was based on a determination that declining attendance at general meetings provided for the reduction.

Christy Ross thanked Marie Collins for her two years as co-President, and noted that she oversaw many new developments, including the formation and activities of the Green Committee, the extracurricular foreign language program, the introduction of paperless meetings, and the "Next Week at Key" e-mail notifications. She presented a gift certificate to Marie.

Christy then turned to the nominating committee, which was composed of Michelle Mundt, Patti Sulser and Catherine Stirling. Catherine spoke for the committee and read the names of the slate of nominees: Julie Scott to continue as Treasurer, Jen Felten to continue as Correspondence Secretary, Mike Bailey and Mike Kubzansky to continue as LSRT members, Paige Chabora as the new co-President, and Pete and Susan Kaminskas as the new co-Recording Secretaries. The slate was approved unanimously.

VI. LSRT elections.

Jen Felten announced that she had tallied the ballots for the election for the two open slots for LSRT representatives, and that the winners were Lauren Goodyear Schramm and Bill Bravman.

VII. Foreign language program

Caroline Wolverton, co-chair of the Foreign Language Committee, described the experience with the foreign language exposure pilot program (FLES). From April through June, Key hosted a foreign language (Spanish) pilot program for K and 1st graders. There were two classes (one before school and one after) of 45 minutes with 12 students each. The program was run by the Montgomery County FLES program.

Caroline said that the feedback from parents was positive. The children were enthusiastic to practice and learn songs. The parents were pleased with the lesson plan and content with the frequency.

She said the questions for the next school year are whether to continue the program in the fall and expand it to other grades and/or other languages (Mandarin Chinese and French are the other languages offered by Montgomery County). She said the cost is \$250 per student per semester. If there is sufficient interest (they will send out a survey in September), classes would start in October.

Jen Felten noted that many parents make their plans for after-school activities over the summer, and asked whether Marie would put something about the potential fall foreign language offering in an upcoming "Next Week at Key" e-mail notice. Windsor Freemyer asked whether students currently in the program would be grandfathered in. Caroline said that would be up for discussion. Julie Scott said how impressed she was with all the work Caroline and her fellow committee member had done. FLES Co-chair Caitlin Durkovich thanked Caroline.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.