

Korematsu Elementary PTO at Mace Ranch

(Parent Teacher Organization)
3100 Loyola Drive – Davis, CA 95618
<http://korematstupro.org>

Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2007

PTO board members present: Ann Huff Stevens, president; Shari Ludden and Sandra Perry, vice presidents; Stacey Horigan, treasurer; Richard Reed, secretary

Staff present: Robb Rodden, principal; head teacher Phyllis York.

Parents/participants:

Kimi Kunimoto, Brianne Agatep, Laney Mangney, Julie Warnock, Melanie Leach, Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi, Joanne Ayers, Mina Garcia, Alicia Mattson, Lina Layiktez.

Introductions, officer's reports and announcements

- The meeting was called to order by President Ann at 7:00 pm.
- The PTO thanked Laney Mangney for her successful Chevy's fundraiser – netting about \$325. The restaurant manager apologized for being unprepared but will be ready the next time.
- Secretary's report: Minutes from the September 17 meeting were informally approved.
- Treasurer's report: Ann and Treasurer Stacey presented a 2007-8 PTO budget, with a projected income of \$4,535 and expense of \$3,802 leaving a year-end balance of \$733. Stacey will confirm if \$500 in library funds from last year was spent.
- MOTION approved unanimously: accept the budget as submitted.
- MOTION approved unanimously: PTO to fund Science Night, presented by Explorit. Cost is about \$450, a rate that includes a 25% discount ably negotiated by Phyllis York. Teachers will select about 10-12 topics. The event will be held this fall and parent volunteers will be needed to staff the interactive displays. Watch for details in the weekly Korematsu Kids newsletter.
- Current paid PTO membership is 46 (out of 120 families).

Committee updates and old business

- Fundraising report: Joanne Ayers presented a detailed written report of progress to date and goals for this school year. The scrip goal is \$110 per month for Nugget and \$60 per month for eScrip. The fundraising committee includes Joanne, Brianne Agatep, Madhavi Sunder, and Dawn Hardaker.
- Garden report: Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi presented a detailed richly illustrated plan for a landscape project between building D and E that includes vegetable and flower beds and an observation deck overlooking the nature preserve. District staff are reviewing the plans and should respond in late October or early November. The district will relocate irrigation lines and may help in other ways. Marc has secured funding (about \$4,000 out of a project budget of \$11,000) from direct donations and state grant funds. The project will be built in phases as funds and approvals allow. Shari provided an update about her visit to Birch Lane's garden and recycling program.
- Recycling (RISE – Recycling Is Simply Elementary) report: Shari reported progress in implementing the school's recycling program. Procedures and containers are in place. Recycling of "3/5/6/7" material is handled separately. She collects those items and takes them weekly to Davis Waste Recycling for redemption. Composting of organic waste will be coming soon. The PTO thanked Shari for her hands-on work with this program
- Principal's report: Robb reminded parents of the upcoming election of school board members and the Measure Q school parcel tax renewal ... Teachers are busy preparing for fall parent teacher conferences, including early dismissals... The school is using a new educational program evaluation called "Academic Program Conferencing". Grade-level teams review the instructional program at a "big-picture" level, looking at all students ... Teachers are reviewing the book "Tools for Citizenship" for topics to include in their curriculum. A copy of the book is available in the school office.

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- Transition Korematsu to K-6 and closure of Valley Oak: the district will schedule public meetings beginning in November as part of the board's process to close Valley Oak and redistribute children and programs to other schools, including Korematsu. Attendance boundaries for elementary and junior high schools will likely be adjusted, and programs such as GATE will be moved. Parents are encouraged to participate fully as our school will be highly impacted by the changes ahead.
- KidzArt: Ann reports that there is enough parent interest (about 18 families) to start this new after school program, beginning the Monday following Thanksgiving break. For more information, parents should contact: www.kidzartca.com or call 916-574-9700. Watch for announcement in the weekly Korematsu Kids newsletter.
- Scholastic Book Fair, October 29 – November 2: Set-up begins Wednesday, October 24th. Shari will need help with decorations, including borrowing and using ladders that can reach the roof of the library building. A parent agreed to be back-up for wearing the "Clifford the Big Red Dog" costume. Take-down will be November 2. The book fair's "Family Night" is Monday, October 29th. PTO members attending the meeting agreed to each bring desert items serving 24. The PTO will sell a desert item with hot chocolate or a bottle of water for \$1. Watch for details in the weekly Korematsu Kids newsletter.

New business and discussion

- Maintenance of city-owned land on the school's borders: Robb reported that the City of Davis owns the bare strip of land parallel to Alhambra and east of the school fence. Robb will ask district staff or board members to discuss this (and the city's maintenance of the south and west borders) in the district's routine meetings with city staff. Meanwhile, Robb will ensure the landscaping in front of the school – along Loyola Drive and the front parking lot – is maintained. Weeds were removed a few weeks ago. The area north of Building C is on school property but is not landscaped awaiting district plans for the possible construction of a building to house the CDC before/after school program.
- Library help: Parent help in the library is welcomed and appreciated, but library staff must be present as required by labor agreements and to protect the integrity of library resources. There will be a staff change in the part-time library tech position, so parents should check with Robb about the best times to help. (The library tech position is 10 hours per week – seven in the classroom and three managing the library).
- GATE Advisory Committee: Alicia Mattson will be the Korematsu PTO parent representative to this district-wide committee, which meets monthly and advises the board of education on the GATE program. The GATE program at Valley Oak will be moving to another school or schools. Korematsu may be one of the locations being considered, which would greatly impact our school's educational program. Alicia will keep us informed. For information on the district's GATE program, go to: www.djusd.k12.ca.us/district/students/GATE.shtml
- Running Club: Parent Julie Warnock discussed an idea (in collaboration with Mr. Taylor) to organize a student running club, modeled after the club at Valley Oak. Ann suggested that they coordinate with the ACCESS after school program, which has a similar activity.
- Reading Grant: Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi received \$2,000 in grant funds for a "Year of the Tall Tales" reading program. More details to follow.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Next meeting

- Wednesday November 14, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, in the Library.

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Contact your PTO officers

Email address:

- Ann Huff Stevens, president president@korematupto.org
- Shari Ludden, 1st vice president vice-president@korematupto.org
- Sandra Walter-Perry, 2nd vice-president
- Stacey Horigan, treasurer treasurer@korematupto.org
- Richard Reed, secretary secretary@korematupto.org
- All PTO officers in one email: korematu-pto-board@korematupto.org

Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

Email address:

- Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi, editor kobekun@kaimera.com