

Korematsu Elementary PTO at Mace Ranch

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

Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2007

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

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

Parents/participants:

Laney Mangney, Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi, Alicia Mattson.

Introductions, officer's reports and announcements

- The meeting was called to order by Vice President Sandra Perry at 7:06 pm.
- The PTO thanked Shari Ludden and volunteers for a very successful Scholastic Book Fair. Net sales were \$3,914.55. The Spring fair is March 3-7.
- Secretary's report: Minutes from the October 17 meeting were informally approved.
- Treasurer's report: Treasurer Stacey reported an account balance of \$7,090.41, of which \$1,400 is assigned to the garden project and ~\$2,000 to the Tall Tales reading program, leaving ~\$3,690 in unrestricted funds.
- MOTION approved unanimously: spend \$175 for UC Davis lunchtime playground assistance; twice-weekly for the past eight weeks (Sept-Nov 2007). Robb will fund the program going forward (once a week for 14 weeks; details to be negotiated).

Committee updates and old/new business

- Fundraising report: Laney Mangney presented Joanne Ayer's monthly written report of progress to date (\$884.73) and status for goals for this school year. Parents discussed a parking lot tag sale fundraising idea that will be forwarded to the fundraising committee.
- Principal's report: Robb reported progress in the hiring of a new library staffer. A decision should be reached soon.
- GATE Advisory Committee: Alicia Mattson and Robb discussed the October 29 GATE Advisory Committee meeting. Robb and Phyllis explained the GATE program and related forms of 'differentiated' teaching. The committee's main issues are moving the self-contained GATE program from Valley Oak to another elementary school, and updating the GATE master plan. The board of education will make a decision about moving GATE and changing elementary and junior high attendance boundaries in the near future.

Alicia distributed this memo to the committee: "Korematsu Parent and Administration Position - Relocation of Valley Oak Double Strand¹ of GATE Students: The Davis Joint Unified School District GATE Master Plan states 'Participation in the program is not limited by other problems of logistics.' [Standard 1.l.c]. This critical element of the GATE Master plan could not be upheld were the double strands of the GATE program at Valley Oak Elementary moved to Korematsu Elementary as we are not a central location. It is the position of those involved at Korematsu Elementary that the strongest model for the self contained GATE program is the dual strand. Our site has 120-student capacity less than Montgomery Elementary and we are smaller than Valley Oak Elementary with regard to classroom capability. While the GATE program would fulfill the needs of some of our neighborhood families, this would need would have to reach the level of 70% to justify utilizing our small number of classrooms for this purpose. As a school we've not yet addressed space for our Speech Instructor or our Reading Specialist. Examining the ELL data, we've 2-second grade students who qualify as ELL, 5 first grade students and 17 Kindergarten

¹ Strand = 30 students. Double-strand = 60 students. In this case, 180 GATE students. (60 x 3 grades of 4-5-6).

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students who also qualify as ELI. We have 7 different languages represented on campus as well as a Full Inclusion Resource program. Our student body is very diverse and draws directly from our surrounding neighborhood. Korematsu has 11 primary classrooms and 8 intermediate classrooms. Projections based on both existing enrollment and projected use reveals our allocation of space is too limited to absorb the GATE program.”

MOTION: The PTO discussed and approved the following motion (final wording approved via email on Nov 16), which was sent to district staff and the board of education:

”The Korematsu PTO respectfully submits the following comments for consideration during deliberation regarding the relocation of the current GATE classrooms located at Valley Oak. Given the current configuration of and availability of intermediate classrooms at Korematsu Elementary, it is our perspective that Korematsu could not absorb six self-contained GATE classrooms without serious negative impact on the emerging neighborhood program. Knowing that this decision is happening parallel to a revamping of the GATE Master Plan, the Korematsu PTO would additionally like to voice its support for expanded options for a district-organized “pull-out” GATE program that could be integrated into the traditional neighborhood school setting.”

- **Attendance boundary changes:** President Ann submitted a written report on one of the public meetings about changes to elementary and junior high attendance boundaries (due to the planned closure of Valley Oak). Several parents also attended and offered comments. The board of education plans to decide on new boundaries in mid-January.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Next meeting

- Monday, December 17, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, in the Library.

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: korematsu-pto-board@korematupto.org

Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

Email address:

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

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November 29, 2007

Executive Board Meeting – Moving GATE from Valley Oak

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: Alicia Mattson, KPTO parent representative to the GATE Advisory Committee (GATE Advisory Committee is comprised of one teacher/administrator and one parent from each district school site. Robb is teacher/administrator representative).

- The meeting was called to order by President Ann at 7:36 pm, and turned over to principal Robb who led the discussion with Alicia.
- The issue: where to move two strands* of GATE students from Valley Oak due to Valley's Oak's closure at the end of this school year.
- Robb and Alicia reviewed the issue, and discussion from the November GATE Advisory Committee meeting. Most of the discussion focused on the magnet proposal (see below).
- Superintendent James Hammond and GATE coordinator Deanne Quinn asked that district elementary PTA/PTOs discuss and rank their preference for two of four options:
 1. Magnet: Convert Holmes Junior High into a GATE magnet school for grades 4-9.
 2. 1:1:1:1: Single GATE strands each at Willett, North Davis, Korematsu, and Pioneer.
 3. 2:2: Two GATE strands each at Willett and Pioneer.
 4. 1:2:1: Two GATE strands at North Davis and one GATE strand each at Willett and Pioneer.

**A GATE strand, at the elementary level, is a sequence of classes from fourth through sixth grades, with about 29 students in each class. Currently, there are two elementary GATE strands at Valley Oak Elementary, one at Willett Elementary and one at Pioneer Elementary.*

- MOTION approved three to one: KPTO executive board ranked Option 2 first and Option 3 second.

Robb and Alicia were given leeway to qualify or modify our recommendation at the upcoming GATE Advisory Committee on December 3rd, depending on need, and based on the general sense and reservations expressed by the KPTO board.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting

- Monday, December 17, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, in the Library.