

Korematsu Elementary PTO at Mace Ranch

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

Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2007

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

Staff present: Teachers Linda McClain and Michael Taylor.

Parents/participants:

Deborah Folb, Dawn Hardaker, Laney Mangney, Joanne Ayers.

Introductions, officer's reports and announcements

- The meeting was called to order by President Ann at 7:03 pm.
- Meeting minutes from November 14 were corrected and minutes from Nov 14 and 29 informally approved.
- Superintendent's Town Hall at Korematsu MPR Thursday December 20th, 7:00 pm. The KPTO will supply hot beverages, water and cookies and help with welcoming participants. Superintendent Hammond wants to hear from the community about issues including attendance boundaries, GATE, district budget, and anything else about our school(s).

Committee updates and old/new business

- GATE Advisory Committee: Michael Taylor reported on the December 3 committee meeting. Most of the discussion focused on a GATE magnet proposal for Holmes. Since then, the board of education has said that the district will consider one of two options. District staff recommend option 2. The next GATE Advisory Committee meeting is Wed Dec 19.

Option 2. 1:1:1:1: One GATE strand each at Willett, North Davis, Korematsu, and Pioneer.
Option 4. 1:2:1: Two GATE strands at North Davis; one GATE strand each at Willett and Pioneer.
- Fundraising report: Joanne Ayers presented her monthly written report of progress to date (\$887.49) and status for goals for this school year. A fundraiser is planned at Steve's Pizza on January 31 (or alternatively January 17).
- SPAC Update (Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee): Dawn reported on the December 14 meeting. The budget was the main focus. The district has a \$1.3 million operating deficit. Mid-year state budget cuts are likely. Enrollment decline is 190 this year (compared to a forecast of 140) resulting in a revenue loss of \$6,000 per student per year. The district also loses money (\$40 a day) when students are absent. The \$4.5 million facilities refund from the state is subject to a possible state audit. Funds (used for capital facilities spending only) may be used for King High and Emerson renovations, among other things.

In other news: negotiations are continuing between Superintendent Hammond and the Valley Oak charter proponents; regarding GATE, a high school parent said that GATE should not be the sole or dominant factor in making boundary changes. A parent from North Davis was concerned about the impact of a full GATE stand, and another parent thought the proposed GATE changes might jeopardize the program.

Superintendent Hammond asked for parent feedback on these three issues. Send any comments to Dawn and she'll pass them along at the next SPAC meeting in January (or anyone can email them directly to superintendent@djusd.k12.ca.us)...

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1. *What are some of the methods the Superintendent can use to communicate to your respective school sites?*
2. *What categories or programs do you believe are important for DJUSD to prioritize in preparation for this year's budget process?*
3. *Any comments, questions, or suggestions for our next meeting.*

SPAC meetings are monthly. Each school is allowed two attendees. Dawn attends regularly and the second slot will rotate among PTO board members.

Jan 11 – Ann will attend
Feb 8

Mar 7
Apr 11

May 9
Friday's 9:30 – 11:00 am at DJUSD.

- Welcome events for Valley Oak students in January: The board of education will formally announce new boundary changes on January 17 (for the relocation of students from Valley Oak to Korematsu and other schools). Robb has asked the KPTO to help with hospitality and welcoming Valley Oak students and families at two events:
 - Wed Jan 23, 2:15-3:30: school tours for students and families
 - Thu Jan 24, 5:30-6:30: school tours for parents
- Scholarships for KidzArt and TALK: KPTO informally approved the idea of scholarships for KidzArt and TALK. KidzArt funds one scholarship and PTO could fund one or more additional (at \$81 each). Ann will discuss with program staff, including the possibility of offering a scholarship for TALK.
- Garden Update: Stacey reported for Marc that the garden plan has been approved by district staff. The first project will be to build a retaining wall. Laney Mangney will email Marc to see if he might need some engineering help (her husband is a civil engineer). The project will be built by parent volunteers. Marc will have further details later.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next meeting

- Wednesday, January 16, 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: korematu-pto-board@korematupto.org

Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

Email address:

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