

Korematsu Elementary PTO at Mace Ranch

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

Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2008

PTO board members present: Ann Stevens, President; Shari Ludden, vice president; Stacey Horigan, treasurer; Richard Reed, secretary

Staff present: Principal Robb Rodden

Parents/participants:

Joanne Ayers, Rebecca Brunette, Dawn Hardaker, Laney Mangney, Beth Mitcham, Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi, Monica Reeves, Dennis Spann. (Monica and Dennis are Valley Oak parents whose children will be coming to Korematsu in September).

Introductions, officer's reports and announcements

- The meeting was called to order by President Ann at 7:35 pm following showing of the video "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred T. Korematsu Story".
- Meeting minutes from January 16 were informally approved.

Committee updates and old/new business

- SPAC Update (Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee): Dawn reported on the February 8 meeting. Attending with Dr. Hammond was the district staff leadership. The committee is undertaking a number of changes to make it more effective. Among them: each school will have four representatives from: PTA/O, site council, and two others. Dawn will continue as our site council rep. PTO board members will rotate the PTO slot. Two other positions, for ELL - English Language Learners, and Special Education, will be filled when we are a full K-6 school in September.

Davis Schools Foundation president Jan Berry discussed efforts to increase fundraising support. They will be promoting a \$1 a day donation program. If every family in the district donated \$1 per day, enough money would be raised to nearly backfill the projected budget shortage. Communities similar to Davis have very aggressive and successful private giving to support their public schools. The Foundation is seeking a representative from each school site to serve as a communications liaison. For more information: www.davisschoolsfoundation.org

District business officer Bruce Colby provided an update on the budget process, including requirements in March to issue notices of potential credentialed staff layoffs, and reporting requirements to the county Office of Education to maintain district budget autonomy.

- The SPAC update led to some informal discussion with Robb about budget related issues, including staffing ratios, energy savings, the library, music, and GATE (the current GATE master plan is being extended a year to allow for more fuller discussion). Robb confirmed that capital funds used to transition Korematsu to a full K-6 site are not in jeopardy.
- New principal: In reply to a question, Robb said the board was expected to make a decision at the next board meeting. [Post-meeting addendum: The board of education announced on February 21 that Mary Ponce, current principal at Valley Oak, has accepted appointment to be Korematsu's principal in September.
- Fundraising report: Joanne Ayers presented her monthly written report of progress to date (\$1,331.98) and status for goals for this school year. The Steve's Pizza fundraiser on January 31 netted \$240.

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- **Book Fair March 3-7:** VP Shari is gearing up for the spring book fair. If we raise enough money, we'll provide to each of our seven teachers \$100 in cash or \$200 in book credit. She'd welcome more help. Contact Shari for more information (email address below).
- **Garden Update:** Marc reported on progress in constructing the garden and viewing deck between buildings D and E overlooking the wildlife habitat. Much of the retaining wall is in, and the irrigation system. The district will provide fill dirt once the wall is complete. Another work party will be announced soon in the Korematsu Kids newsletter. The PTO thanked the families involved.
- **Spring event:** The May "Asia/Pacific Fest" is being considered along with a "Spring Bazaar Festival". Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi and Laney Mangney discussed various options. Thinking and planning continues. (see Marc's proposal in a hard copy one-page memo).
- **Student programs:** Marc reported on several grant-funded reading-related programs coming up soon. Watch for details in the Korematsu Kids newsletter.
- **Recycling:** VP Shari is looking for volunteers to prepare recycled juice pouches for the recycling contractor. We receive 1¢ per container. Contact Shari for more information (email address below).
- **T shirts:** We decided to plan for school t-shirts next fall, after the integration of families from Valley Oak, Birch Lane and Pioneer. We might have students assist in the design.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Next meeting

- Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, in the Library.

Contact your PTO officers

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

Email address:

president@korematupto.org
vice-president@korematupto.org
treasurer@korematupto.org
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Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

- Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi, editor

Email address:

kobekun@kaimera.com