

Korematsu Elementary PTO at Mace Ranch

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

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2008

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

Staff present: Principal Robb Rodden

Parents/participants: Joanne Ayers, Rosanne Bernardy (Birch Lane), Dawn Hardaker, Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi, Alicia Mattson, Betsy Solomon (Valley Oak).

Introductions, officer's reports and announcements

- The meeting was called to order by President Ann at 7:02 pm.
- Meeting minutes from April 14 were informally approved.

Committee updates and old/new business

- Principal's report: Robb said enrollment for next year is about 460, at present. Teacher assignments for next year should be known in early June.

Staff is busy with the logistics of expansion to K-6. Teachers will complete their classroom packing and set-up work by June 26. District staff will work through the summer to prepare classrooms and other facilities, including bike racks, a play structure for older kids, and striping the joint city/school playfield on the west side of the campus.

CDC (Child Development Center) will be moving a portable building to the school property this summer, just west of Kindergarten Building H. Trees and scrubs on the site will be relocated.

Staff is sensitive to the needs of continuing younger students (grades K-2) getting accustomed to the presence of older students (grades 3-6), and the reverse, older students coming to a school formerly focused on the lower grades. The lower and upper grades also have staggered recess, lunch and dismissal times.

The sensitivity extends to the expectations and traditions of incoming students and families from Valley Oak, Birch Lane, and Pioneer, and those continuing at Korematsu.

The PTO executive board will meet with incoming principal Mary Ponce this summer to help with the transition where needed and appropriate. Mary will also be utilizing upper grade student leaders transferring from other schools to help with the transition.

District facilities director Mike Adell is working with the city to address traffic safety and the expansion to a full school. This includes street parking, crosswalks, and entering/exiting the parking lots – particularly exit restrictions onto southbound Alhambra and U turns at Alhambra and Fifth.

Staff hope to widen the fence opening between Mace Ranch park (by the oak tree) and the playground. Eventually, they may be able to open a new entrance from the park near the southwest corner of Building E.

The PTO will work with staff to assist in any one-time or ongoing safety efforts during drop-off and pick-up. A parent suggested "walk-pools" via the park to encourage walking and avoiding the hazards of vehicular traffic.

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Student response to Asia Pacific Fest was overwhelmingly positive. Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi was thanked for his leadership with this event, along with all the teachers and parents who helped make it a great success.

STAR testing for 2nd grade students was completed successfully, with results reported in late summer.

Two teacher activities resulted in front page newspaper stories recently: On April 27, “Korematsu catches a big one” about a 25-foot-long steel-and-fiberglass model known as “Fin the Salmon”, on display for Ms. Lieth’s second-grade class. On May 16, “Korematsu kids climb to new heights” about Mr. Taylor and the visit of Rocknasium’s portable climbing wall, a reward for participating students from several classes in which kids had run a collective 1,000 laps.

MOTION: Approved to spend up to \$50 for refreshments for the summer custodial staff. Alicia will work with Robb on the timing and details.

MOTION: Approved a \$100 transfer where the PTO pays a vendor for the Asia Pacific Fest and the school pays an equal amount to the PTO’s garden fund.

- **SPAC Update** (Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Committee): Dawn and Alicia reported on the May 9 meeting. Topics included mid-May revisions to district budget assumptions due to funds raised by the Davis Schools Foundation, and the Governor’s revision to the proposed state budget. The board may decide to place another parcel tax on the ballot this fall. There will still be spending reductions. Alicia passed around a copy of a letter to the editor that she wrote about last month’s SPAC meeting.
- **GATE Advisory Committee update**: Alicia reported that the GATE master plan is being tweaked, rather than revised. She reported that some GATE parents were concerned about a proposal (since removed) to consolidate the position of GATE coordinator and reduce centralized coordination and services provide by the district office. Alicia will continue attending the monthly meetings.
- **Fundraising report**: Joanne Ayers presented her monthly written report of progress to date (\$2,569.95) and status for goals for this school year. A Dos Coyotes fundraiser is tentatively planned for June 2nd or 3rd. Watch for details in the Korematsu Kids newsletter. Joanne was thanked for her excellent work this year – exceeding our goals, with very clear reporting and accounting. She will continue as fundraising chair in the next school year.
- **Treasurer’s report**: Stacey reported a net checking account balance of \$5,648, with several disbursements to come. Some of these funds are earmarked for the Tall Tales project and garden fund.

MOTION approved to spend up to \$200 on a surprise thank-you gift for school secretary Tammy Ghaffari. President Ann will handle the details.

MOTION approved to spend up to \$200 on a surprise thank-you gift for principal Robb Rodden. Alicia and Mark will handle the details.

PTO expressed deep gratitude to Tammy and Robb for their tremendous dedication and work above and beyond the norm.

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MOTION: approved to reimburse Shari for \$92 fee to reserve the Mace Ranch Park picnic pavilion for an end-of-school picnic from 12:00 – 4:00pm on Thursday, June 12. All children must be accompanied by parent or responsible adult. Details to follow in the Korematsu Kids newsletter.

- Election of PTO officers and appointments for 2008-2009 school year:

VOICE VOTE unanimous by acclamation: Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi, president; Shari Ludden, first vice president; Sandra Perry, second vice president; Richard Reed, secretary. BALLOT VOTE (two candidates; count certified by Shari Ludden): Stacey Horigan, treasurer.

- MOTION: approved to create the new position of auditor (working with the treasurer and executive board to ensure good fiscal and bookkeeping practice). Betsy Solomon appointed to this position for 2008-2009 school year.
- MOTION: approved to appoint Alicia Mattson chair of a new Hospitality Committee.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Next meeting

- Planned for late summer. Watch for announcements on the KPTO listserv and website.

Post-meeting reminder from Dawn Hardaker:

Parents can now prepay school meals electronically: Click on (or copy) this link to the district website: <http://www.djUSD.k12.ca.us/BusinessServices/sns/MealPrepayment.htm>

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

Davis Schools Foundation

- www.davisschoolsfoundation.org Email: info@davisschoolsfoundation.org
- Davis Schools Foundation, PO Box 1154, Davis, CA 95617, Phone (530) 902-1624