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**Middle School Parent Committee -- Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Dr. David Sciarretta – Executive Director of AEACS, dsciarretta@aeacs.org

Barb Robinson – Principal of MS, brobinson@aeacs.org

Maritza Escalona – MS Parent Representative, Friends of AEA, maritzini@yahoo.com.mx

 Catherine McCullough – MS Parent Communications, aeacmsparents@gmail.com

1. MS Parent Committee – Maritza Escalona and Catherine McCullough
	1. **Fro-Yo Weds** by Fiji Yogurt have begun EVERY Weds after school release to raise $$ for MS Parent Fund. This helps fund Staff & Teacher Appreciation week, as well as 8th Grade Graduation activities. Frozen yogurt is sold for $3 w/topping and 20% goes back to AEA! Remind your kids!
	2. **Valentines Smoothie Bar on 2/19** for teachers/staff in the staff lounge. Manuela Seidl and Hildy White will blend up smoothies at beginning of lunch that Friday. No volunteers needed at this time, but donations of crackers, cheese or fruit is welcome. Please email Maritza at maritzini@yahoo.com.mx or Manuela at ericelalisa@yahoo.de if you want to send items the day prior on 2/18.
	3. Take notice we have a new and improved **MS Parent Committee page on the school website** under the Parents drop down menu! Most importantly, at the moment there are **several open positions on the MS Parent Committee**. Some have been filled. However, there are still open positions. See link here on the MS Parent Committee page of website: <http://www.aeacms.org/parent-committee/>
	4. **MS Parent Committee Meetings** are typically held just prior to the Pastries w/the Principals meetings monthly (8am start). All MS Parents are encouraged to come! Items discussed include plans to support AEA teachers w/birthdays, events, Holiday Lunch, Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week, and year-end activities such as 8th Grade Graduation and teacher gifts. We need help! Next meeting will be held at the Middle School campus March 2 – plan to drop your MS students off a little early and head over to our Parent Committee meeting at 8am, before PWP meeting starts at 8:30. Thank you!
2. Executive Director - Dr. David Sciarretta
3. Thanks to Kai Schoettke at Food For Thought Cafe for the generous donation of **pastries and coffee** for this PWP meeting.
4. Traffic studies were done and it has been determined a light will NOT be installed at the intersection of Fern and A Streets.
5. The newly elected **School Site Council** have started to meet. Their next meeting is 3/15 @4:15pm at MS Campus.
6. **Elementary Site Modernization** presentation has been given by Greta Bouterse, principal of ES, to the SDUSD Board. The Board now goes to vote. The $26mil project monies will come through recent a bond measure. Several exciting plans for great change to take place on the ES site.
7. **ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training** will be done for teachers soon on an off-schedule date by law enforcement personnel. This training prepares teachers to handle the threat of an Active Shooter.
8. **Immunization** is now legally mandated for new incoming 6th grade students, as well as entry into Kindergarten.
9. **Charter renewal** process has begun. School Board meeting in March will be hearing about renewing of MS. ES will follow sometime after that.
10. Please note due to a recent SDUSD School Board resignation, a position is now open on the Board. AEA will actively support the new position be filled to our best interest.
11. **Important Calendar Dates (both schools):**

2/9 4:30pm **AEA Board of Trustees** meeting @ES

2/28 Current 5th grade students **STILL need to apply online** to reserve their spot in AEACMS by this date. Also, same for siblings of current students going into Kindergarten.

2/12 & 15 Presidents’ Day Holidays Observed (4-day weekend) – **NO SCHOOL**

1. MS Principal - Barb Robinson
2. **List of Upcoming Events @MS**:

2/3 **Spelling Bee.** Winner goes onto regional level to compete for National Spelling Bee.

2/3 MS **Report Cards** will be posted by 2/8 on ManageBac. A parent verification will go home.

2/3 **New Art/Design classes** start for the new semester. Now there are three classes, which now allows kids w/intervention classes to participate.

2/15 8th grade **Choice Enrollment deadline**. This is VERY important if your child does not plan to attend their neighborhood school. NO LATE applications will be accepted by SDUSD.

1. Other School Highlights**:**
	* 1. **New water tanks** have been installed and helps with landscaping and drainage needs.
		2. **MAP** assessments have been done by NWEA, comparing scores and measuring students’ progress.
		3. **Spanish teachers** are working on an accreditation in Spanish. This will include the requisite to participate in three cultural activities.
		4. A **new student ambassador program** is being developed to train kids and teachers for two days to help identify and help during bullying situations.
		5. Skype interviews have begun for **new German teacher next year**, as Steffi Conrath’s VISA term is coming to an end. As before, this teacher will also teach German classes at SDHS as part of current agreement with German Consulate.
		6. **AATG (American Association of Teachers of German)** has already been taken by many German students and the **DSD B1** **(Deutsches Sprachdiplom)** exams for 8th grade will be coming in March and early April. Appox 34 kids are taking the DSD B1 this year.
		7. More on the **DSD/AATG and German language continuum**:
			1. Exams are given for internal assessment and placement into next level.
			2. 8th grade also does an internal assessment in addition to DSD/AATG scoring to determine level for 9th grade placement at HS level. This has already started for the current year.
			3. There is dialogue between schools to help with placement. It helps we have a teacher that teaches at both schools.
			4. We have a German language coordinator for both schools, Birgit Schafer. Also, MS German language teachers purposefully have prep class together in order to collaborate. However, the Board of Trustees will discuss the possibility of adding another German language coordinator for one of the campuses (based on parent recommendation @the meeting. Board President, Bill Melton agreed this would be considered).
		8. **Community Project 8th Grade Class**, taught by IB Coordinator, Libby Dominguez is working on their Passion Projects and allows for a great mentoring experience. Students wanting to achieve the MS IB Service Diploma still need to obtain 30 hours of community service and submit for approval and write a reflection to get proper credit. The hours put into the Passion Project as an act of community service can be put toward the 30-hour goal.
		9. Rebecca Bennett, Gala Chair – **AEA Gala is June 4** and is a “Masquerade” theme. There will be a full meal and open bar, Silent & Live auctions, and whole lot of fun. This is AEA’s big event of the year and main source of funding for much-needed programs such as Science, PE, German interns, and more. If you cannot attend, please consider sponsoring a teacher or make a donation. Info is on the current FOAEA newsletter. Procurement has started so please ask family, friends, neighbors and businesses you frequent to donate!

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