

Korematsu Elementary PTO at Mace Ranch

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

Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2007

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

Staff present: Robb Rodden, principal; teachers Sharyn Lieth and Phyllis York.

Parents/participants: Kimi Kunimoto, Jean Ho, Deborah Folb, Debbie Chin, Melanie Leach, Brianne Agatep, Debra Taylor, John Aquino, Lisa Siegler, Dawn Haraker, Beth Mitchum.

Attendees included parents of 5 children entering Kindergarten, 5 First Grade, and 3 Second Grade

Introductions and announcements

- The first meeting of the 2007-08 school year was called to order by President Ann at 7:00 pm
- Announcements: class postings Aug 28, First day coffee social and school tour Aug 29, Back to School Night Sept 6; class start times for K and 1-2.
- Ann encouraged paid membership in the PTO. Membership forms are available in the office and online (see URL above).
- VP Shari described the school's recycling program (RISE – Recycling is Simply Elementary), teaching children responsible stewardship and providing funds to the PTO and DJUSD.
- Secretary Rich is on the steering committee for Measure Q on the November 6 ballot. The measure is a renewal of a parcel tax supporting all Davis public schools. For more information please visit: www.yesforourstudents.org
- Rich made note of the DJUSD's new superintendent Dr. James Hammond, who starts in November. Interim superintendent Richard Whitmore will continue until then. Dr. Hammond has already visited Korematsu.
- Rich also thanked Phyllis York, who served valiantly as "lead teacher" last year, helping get the school launched and advocating on the school's behalf.

Committee updates and old business

- Treasurer Stacey said the PTO account has a balance carried forward from last year of \$1,382.82.
- The Korematsu community is encouraged to support ongoing fundraising tools, including: eScrip, Box Tops for Education, Campbell Soup labels, Good Search.com, and the Nugget debit card (3% of Nugget purchases made via the debit card returned to Korematsu). Box tops and soup labels can be dropped-off in the school office. eScrip needs to be renewed annually. For more information: www.escrip.com Look for fundraising details on the PTO website (see URL above) and in the new school directory to be published in September.

New business and discussion

Before/After School Care

- Children's Center: A DJUSD before/after school care program on site, but fully booked with a waiting list.
- Beginning in school year 2008-09 (when Korematsu will become a full K-6 school), we expect the District to contract with CDC to provide before/after school care. For more info about CDC (on site at other Davis elementary schools) visit: www.cdcdc.org
- ACCESS After School / Davis Kids Club: is available for on-site care after school. Call 220-4731 or visit: www.daviskidsklub.com
- TALK (Teaching Another Language to Kids) is among several other after school programs that may become available to parents. Watch for announcements

Korematsu Elementary PTO at Mace Ranch

(Parent Teacher Organization)

3100 Loyola Drive – Davis, CA 95618

<http://korematstupro.org>

Meeting Minutes

Activities, events and fundraising ideas

- Teacher welcoming and support: Shari encourages parents to contribute snacks and leftovers for teacher appreciation days and ongoing. Donations can be made to the teacher's lounge adjoining the office. (Sometimes these are provided to children who have no food for lunch).
- Scholastic Book Fair: Shari also organizes two annual book fairs in late October and February. We'd welcome and appreciate your help.
- Science assemblies / Science Night: Ms. York recalled the outstanding success of last year's event. Funds are needed to repeat the event this year.
- Art projects to engage children and enhance the school grounds: several parents and teachers spoke to the benefits of these projects. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to make them happen.

- Principal Robb provided some thoughts on parent financial support. We should consider school wide events and grade level programs, in addition to funding supplies and physical improvements. The goal of these ancillary programs is to develop a sense of community and identity, in addition to educational enrichment.
- As we talked about the challenges of school funding, Robb mentioned that Korematsu faces proportionally higher fixed costs with a smaller enrollment this year (grades K-1-2). Most state funds are disbursed on per-student basis.

- A parent suggested we focus on increasing participation in existing programs, and that we communicate clearly about why funds are needed from parents.
- Rich said the PTO will try to explain the basics of DJUSD and Korematsu school funding – where money comes from and how it's categorized and spent, and we'll make a good case for raising funds and ensuring accountability.
- Ann pointed out that as a PTO, donations are tax deductible. (Compared to PTAs, which conduct lobbying that lessen tax deductibility).

Other funding ideas:

- Shade structure for playground.
- Outdoor changeable message sign or bulletin board.
- Calendars: Dawn Hardaker may try selling at-a-glance calendars with profits to the PTO. Several parents expressed interest.
- T-shirts: Rich suggested selling extra school T-shirts from last year and changing the design for ongoing sales to the school community. Other schools encourage wearing of school shirts on "spirit days" and for school functions.
- Ideas from other Davis schools include fun runs, carnivals, direct solicitations, picnics.

Communication, understanding and inspiration

- Web sites: Robb will check with District staff about launching the school's website. Meanwhile, the PTO board will work to update and enhance the PTO website (see URL above).
- School newsletter: the weekly newsletter will be sent home with children. We'll try to get it posted on the PTO web site too.
- Outdoor bulletin board: several parents suggested we research the cost and feasibility of an outdoor bulletin board or changeable sign, as a supplement to a web site and printed newsletters/flyers.
- Class representatives: (see first point under "Volunteers" below)

Korematsu Elementary PTO at Mace Ranch

(Parent Teacher Organization)

3100 Loyola Drive – Davis, CA 95618

<http://korematupto.org>

Meeting Minutes

Volunteers needed (contact any PTO board member)

- Class representatives: one or more parents from each of the seven classrooms act as ambassadors between the class and the PTO, sharing information, and helping as needed.
- Library help: the school's librarian is part-time with a huge influx of new books. We need to get the books processed and on the shelves to be useful to children. Watch the school newsletter for announcements.
- Scholastic Book Fair (October/February) [see above].
- Fundraising: pull a team together to develop and manage a PTO fundraising program.
- Garden/school grounds: appropriate and sustainable plantings and improvements.
- Other ideas: parents are encouraged to think of other areas of need and to join us in bringing these ideas to fruition.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

Next meetings

- Monday, September 17, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, in the Library.
- Wednesday October 17, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, in the Library.
- Future monthly meetings may alternate on two different nights of the week to encourage attendance from busy parents and staff. Watch for an announcement of a fixed meeting schedule for the school year.

Contact your PTO officers

- Ann Huff Stevens, president
- Shari Ludden, 1st vice president
- Sandi 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
Coming soon
Coming soon
secretary@korematupto.org
korematu-pto-board@korematupto.org