

AELP Parent Organization Board Meeting Minutes January 31, 2012

Members Present: Aric Birchmier, Tom Doruska, Mary Bush, Karen Peters, Mariateresa Elia, Linette Mace, Nicole Peterson

Committee Reports

Communications

- Website update: still looking at having high school/middle school students create it, but maintenance would take a lot of time so perhaps adults from the group could take over maintenance once it's designed

- Linette will check with her students about designing the site and suggested having a couple of board members come in and work with students to guide the design.

- Aric also mentioned a group of 6th graders that may be interested in designing the site.

- Aric will check with Andrea about how she wants to proceed with the website.

- We approved the Logo prototype Andrea presented earlier but need to change the name to AELP Parent Organization or AELP Parents to be consistent with group name; need to finalize soon to include on website and other communications

Legislative

- Aric will speak to Ann about getting information on the Branstad Education Act and communicating its contents/ramifications to parents.

Finance

- After the fall meeting and member drive, Tom has record of 14 members with 10 of them joining ITAG as well. He will check with Cindy to see if she received any additional membership forms/dues.

- We also received \$105 in donations.

- We need to get those who purchased ITAG memberships signed up as soon as possible so they can start receiving those benefits.

Programming

- Book Club: Karen has collected the information from those who expressed interest. There will be one daytime group and one nighttime group. She is working on scheduling issues but will send out notices to those involved soon so they can start meeting.

- Karen is working on typing up lists from the fall meeting (book club, volunteering, mentoring, speakers, etc.).

- It was decided to send out Dr. Dodge's responses to the submitted questions from the fall meeting to all AELP parents.
 - An additional question was asked about what is being done for K–2 students who need challenging?
 - It was also proposed that we get some type of public updates from the AELP teacher meetings to keep us informed about what's going on in the schools.

- Spring Speaker or Summer Opportunity Fair
 - We discussed possible speakers for an early March event that would focus on community opportunities for AELP students. Suggestions included Belin-Blank, OPPTAG, and ITAG. Contact will be made with these groups to find a speaker.
 - *Follow-up note: OPPTAG is willing to come and plans are being made for a presentation in early March.
 - Aric will check with the Johnston parent group about possible speaker contacts.
 - Due to the time constraints (need to do early March before summer programs fill up), if a speaker isn't available, the back-up plan includes a brief presentation by Matt Robie followed by an open sharing of summer opportunities. Board members will begin gathering ideas/information to share at the meeting.

- We would still like to have summer picnic for families to meet and network. Will revisit after the March event.

Next Meeting: Monday, Feb. 27th at 7:00 at Northview AELP Room