

## **AELP Parent Organization Board Meeting Minutes August 9, 2012**

**Members Present:** Nicole Petersen, Karen Peters, Andrea White, Mariateresa Elia, Mary Bush, Cindy Bartek, Ann Wright, Matt Robie\*

\*Matt is the new teacher liaison for the parent organization. He is half-time at Prairie Trail and half-time co-coordinator of AELP content.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Finance*

- ITAG membership is January to December. No extension is allowed.
- Cindy will ask Tom about our account balance.
- Membership Drive: ITAG membership will need to be renewed this fall/winter, but AELP Parent Organization dues will apply to this year.
- Discussed possibly seeking a corporate sponsor for a speaker in the future

#### *Communication*

- Still need someone to help with updating/designing/maintaining the website. Karen Murphy from DMACC is interested in helping. May use it as a semester project for a class she's teaching this fall. Andrea and Nicole will meet with her to discuss.
- Plan to send membership brochure home with students via AELP teachers (after approval by Jarrett Peterson). Andrea will update the brochure with new dues information and current board members.

#### *Programming*

- Speaker for this year: perhaps find someone who is already working with the district and would be willing to speak one evening or someone associated with ITAG
- Plan to repeat the summer offerings event
- Plan to have a fall book club and are searching for a book. Will review some suggestions from Matt and Linette and choose one. It was suggested that we add AELP teacher book suggestions to the newsletter as well.

#### *Legislative*

- No update

### **Communication from Matt**

- There is discussion about having a district-wide meeting with break-out sessions with a variety of topics. Pair with parent organization? Present in the introduction and perhaps host a break-out session?
- Lisa Glenn, the new director of special programming, would like to attend the next meeting. Matt will contact her regarding the date.

- Matt inquired if we thought there would be interest in evening math olympiad meetings for students who want to participate in math olympiads but aren't in AELP. It would require parent volunteers as leaders. We agreed that it would be a good project to coordinate with the parent organization and that other programs are of interest as well (Lego League, Odyssey of the Mind).

### **Other Discussion Items**

- Need to advertise ITAG Conference in October to members.
- Nicole is working on putting together a newsletter for parents with information from the parent organization as well as contributions from teachers at the different levels (student activities, information, photos, etc.). Aim for September output prior to membership drive.
- Continue to send all information to *all* AELP parents (not just members) to encourage membership.
- There is concern about all schools having an opportunity to meet the AELP teacher/ask questions/gather information at either back-to-school night or meet-the-teacher night. Currently there is a huge discrepancy from school to school. Matt will pass concerns on to Lisa Glenn.
- Proposed investigating the board policy for receiving credit for math classes before 9th grade as it applies to accelerated math students. We would have to go to school board to have the policy changed. Ann will follow-up with Dr. Lindaman, who is familiar with the policy as well as the pros and cons of changing it.
- Elections: As of now, we need a new vice-president and treasurer for this year. (Nicole will take over as president.) For now, we will look to recruit help until spring when we will hold an election for a new board.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, August 30 at 8 p.m. at Ankeny Pediatric Clinic Meeting Room

- Please review the Johnston website and other websites and come with ideas for the parent organization website as well as any additional items to include in the newsletter.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**