

## **AELP Parent Organization Board Meeting Minutes December 2, 2012**

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

Special Guest: Lisa Glenn, Director of Special Programs

### **Review of Fall AELP Presentation**

- About 100 people in attendance
- Positive feedback
- Breakout sessions were popular; could have been longer
- Have future nights of breakout sessions and/or open discussion
- Breakout sessions: secondary ones highly attended; need to disperse that information better; could separate elementary and secondary ones in the future so teachers and parents don't have to attend all nights
- Start with one "formal" session followed by more informal ones if people desire.
- A high number of parents indicated they would be interested in attending board meetings; look for larger venue (a school) for future meetings and invite all parents; send out an agenda to parents and invite them to submit items of interest as well
- Group will send a thank you email to those teachers who presented at sessions and cc to Dr. Kimpston/principals (Nicole)
- In the next newsletter, include a link to the PowerPoints from the presentations along with a general summary of the event.
- In the next newsletter, ask for parents to submit ideas for future sessions.
- In January, we will develop a more formal plan for how to proceed with future programming.

### **Update from Lisa Glenn**

- Extended learning program review beginning this spring (officially next year):
  - Currently working on strategies for gathering feedback from a range of people (teachers, parents, students), including two members of our group
  - Looking at continuity and scope of programming
  - Differentiation in the core classroom will affect AELP services
  - When plans are outlined, Lisa will get back to the group regarding the time commitment involved for any board members who choose to be part of the feedback group.
  - Lisa also spoke with Susan Assouline about UI helping with the review and will pursue further as plans progress.

### **Committee Discussions**

*Finance*

- Fundraising ideas: Math Olympiads, Geography Bee, Knowledge Bowl, Trivia, etc., for parents and/or families
- Set a goal for the money ahead of time.
- Have a fund for people to request a “grant” to sponsor a team or trip or other AELP activity
- Send out thank you cards and Starbucks gift cards to all AELP teachers in January. (Nicole will get cards; Cindy will get gift cards.)

### *Communication*

- Handbook for Parents:
  - Possibly put together by next fall?
  - Outline general information about the AELP program at all levels
  - Include information from the program review and continue to update each year
  - “Running” list of opportunities in and out of school for AELP students
- We will begin planning the spring newsletter at the January meeting. Andrea will ask teachers if there is anything they want included.
- Logo for website: we can’t use anything resembling the district’s logo, so we are now considering new options.

### *Programming*

- At our January meeting, we will begin planning out future programs, discussion groups, etc., as discussed in *Review of AELP Presentation* section above.
- Repeat spring “summer opportunities” event/fair in February (plan in January). Karen will contact OPPTAG before the January meeting and update the current list (send any additions to her).

### **Membership**

- ITAG dues need to be renewed in January.
- Cindy will send out an email to members thanking them for their past support, reminding them of membership benefits such as past events sponsored, and attaching membership brochure for this year.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 10, 7 p.m. at Prairie Trail Elementary (Matt will book.)

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.**