

- Parents Open Meeting - JANUARY 24, 2004, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM, ST.MARTINS SHOOOL

Present: Sam Karamoutzos, John Tryphonopoulos, Sophocles Katsademas, Steve Eleftheroglou, Jim Koudounis, Jayne Fragiskakos, Mary Tsaltas, Kleopatra Kolovos, Litsa Lerikos, Dina Sakelis.

1. Introduction and Agenda Review

- Read minutes from November 22nd 2003 Parents meeting. Mary Tsaltas motioned to accept the minutes and Demetris Koudounis seconded ... motion passed.

2. School Updates

- Sam Karamoutzos gave an update on the Carols singing event: Two groups split north and south London (2 vans) and visited 30 homes. Approx. 600\$ was collected. Everyone had fun. Comments for improvement: It took too long, and did not have enough children participating. For future we should have smaller groups, more groups and go out for a shorter time.
- Steve Eleftheroglou gave an update:
 - Letters will be sent to classes next week about the yearbook. Pictures will be taken next.
 - There is an issue with the wide range of student knowledge levels within classes. Teachers will need training to deal with these subgroups within their class. We had a lot of discussion on this subject, and it is captured under the section Planning Meeting with Teachers, Parents and Education Committee.
 - Expects that the number of young children to increase in the next 3-4 years due to more births.
- The Letters Day Dance takes place next weekend on Saturday January 31st at our Community Centre. Tickets are \$10 and children are free. Will make announcements about the Danceathon and the parents-teachers meeting we are planning for February 29th. Litsa, Demetra and Mary are organizing the Danceathon and plan to include activities such as Jelly Bean Jar count guessing, Limbo dancing and facepainting. Sam encouraged everyone to invite friends. We need more prizes donated for fundraising.

3. Discussion:

- Mary Tsaltas asked if we should have a student council. We do not currently have a formal council but the older grades are organizing the yearbook. No decision was made.
- Demetris Koudounis surveyed parents that did not re-register their children to Greek school in the past couple of years. The parents appreciated the follow-up from the Education Committee. The main reason for not re-registering was that the parents had higher expectations from the school which were not met.

4. Planning Meeting with Teachers, Parents and Education Committee.

Discussion/Brainstorming:

- We need to have written expectations for each grade, such as minimum material that needs to be covered by the teacher and mastered by the student.
- Need the support of the parents at home to help students with homework. May need to setup help sessions beyond what is offered during school hours. Need to leverage parent to parent support structure.
- May want to consider splitting up classes by levels (ie. Levels 1, 2 & 3).
- Need to assign and/or hire teachers for following year before end of current school year. This will allow teachers time to get prepared / organized.
- Academic content is very important but we should continue to focus on the social and cultural facet that our children participate at Greek school. We should add components to class curriculum such as making tiropites and colouring Easter eggs, and showing videos from our school video library.
- Integrate / work-with other youth groups in our community such as GOYA.

ACTION: Need to have a workshop with parents & teachers to determine the 2004 priorities and program of our Greek School. The intent is to bring these changes to the General Assembly on May 29th for approval in order to implement by Sept 2004.

Next Action Steps agreed upon:

- a) Saturday February 7th: at St.Martins School. Meeting with Parents and Education Committee. Each parent should solicit feedback from their children that attend Greek School on things they enjoy, do not enjoy and ideas of what they would like to see change / added. Each parent should also ask these same questions to themselves. It is important that each parent has written down their comments prior to this meeting so we can keep the meeting brief and effective.
- b) Steve E. will ask Teachers to provide their input on things that currently work and we should keep, and things that we need to improve / change for the next school year. If possible Steve E. will summarize the feedback comments from the teachers prior to the parents-teachers meeting.
- c) Sunday February 29th at the Community Centre, from 3:00-5:30 pm. (will confirm this meeting)
Meeting of Parents, Teachers, and Education Committee.

**PLEASE
attend this
FEB-7-2004
MEETING –
your input is
CRITICAL!**