

City High/Middle PTSA - EAC Meeting
10/23/08
Wealthy St Bakery
608 Wealthy Street, Grand Rapids, MI

1. Call to Order: 700 pm
2. Attendance: Andy Bowman, Kate McCrindle, Sara Potyraj, Denise Blair, Anne Marie Bessette, Ted Bonarski (left early), Mark Roys and Kelly Sue Hornsby (arrived late).
3. Approval of Minutes. Minutes of 9/25/08 approved by general concurrence.
4. Agenda Approval. Agenda approved by general concurrence.
5. Review Goals:
 - a. Student Involvement and the "Whereas" Resolution
 - i. Sara will circulate the "Whereas document" via e-mail, Kate will go to Monday night Candidate Forum. Also check with JoAnne Peterson on the Legislative Debate team.
 - ii. Need to do some work at the Monday Night Candidate Forum.
 - iii. Will discuss results at the next meeting.
 - b. Community Newsletter. Will do one again for this year and relate to the GRPS Candidate Forum. Need 4 weeks turn around. Everybody will fan out to find best cost for Community Newsletter format similar to last year. Deadline to publish April 1st. March 20th is deadline for Bowman, others have deadline of March 7th. Need to coordinate with other groups that might be doing GRPS Candidate forum this year. Bowman will ask Rose DeBie and Lianna Bowman to help check on GS. Denise to check on League of Womens Voters.
 - i. Contents may rely on elections outcome.
 - ii. High School Graduation statistics are showing trends reversed of those in the recent past. Also investigate other forms of learning or subject matter.
 - iii. KISD Legislative Priorities:
 1. New HS graduation requirements - one size fits all in question.
 2. Support for 2X formula.
6. Leadership Grand Rapids discussion: Bessette explained that they will just be giving a more general overall view of the school issues. Will also be providing a variety of local speakers.
7. Grassroots.
 - a. Other Legislative Advocacy groups were discussed by John Helmholdt. John Helmholdt recommended PACs. Denise disagrees with using PACs.
 - b. HJR III valuation and taxation floor was discussed. Important to watch.
8. Other Issues:
 - c. McCrindle explained she was the lead at PTSA to receive e-mails or posts from various parents on issues such as trimesters seriously affecting scheduling for everything. Bowman added that it was intended to round up complaints so issues can be handled. AP, IB issues were also discussed. Parents asked that a more complete round-up of these related issues be created for the GRPS Board. McCrindle felt the EAC could work on this as part of their advocacy mission. Everyone agreed.
 - d. McCrindle also discussed the PTSA task for planning a parent event. She is planning a Parent group session in January. She would like to pull together a "City Think Social". The session would try to inform and empower and to redirect parent frustration to solutions.
9. Next Meeting: EAC will meeting again on Thursday, November 13, 7:00 pm, at Wealthy St Bakery.
10. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.