

SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM
Minutes from meeting of JANUARY 9, 2013

Present: Sherilyn Pruitt, chair; Mark Pattison, secretary; Kesha Pendergrast, parent representative, Tia Holt, Joele Michaud, Nancy Ulba, teacher representatives; Carl Bergman, community representative; Toby Susse; PTA representative; plus Principal Jamie Miles

Excused absences: Lisa Connor, parent representative; Valena Valentine-Nelson, teacher representative.

Minutes: Pattison moved, Pendergrast seconded approving the minutes of the December meeting as amended. Motion carried.

Follow-Up/Follow-Through (FUFT)

Get Caught Reading: Reading response longs coming back in great numbers, so many that the security guard is being deputized to track responses. Already 12 students have reached the “30” level entitling them to a free book. ... There’s been no response to the tale Mrs. Miles wrote in the Mustang about the student who complained there was nobody at his home who would read with him. ... The school is still looking for Wednesday lunchtime readers 11:45-12:45. ... The school also could use more adults to support reading for the upper grades.

TV Turnoff: More pictures need to be taken, and a bulletin board secured (with placement OK’d by the principal) for TV-Video Game Turnoff Club members.

Safe Routes: Jim Elliott will be asked by Mark as to his availability to lead a bike rodeo as part of an “Earth Day event” tentatively set for April 20. Toby will tell the LSAT who will be a PTA lead on such an event. Last year’s was combined with a Registration Fair to get parents to register their students for the following school year, with a moon bounce as an inducement. Sherilyn, who won a moon bounce prize at last year’s auction, said she would donate her prize for the Earth Day event.

Crossing Guard: Jamie has yet to email her contact on getting the crossing guard stationed at 14th and Jonquil rather than 14th and Kalmia.

Librarians: Two have volunteered to serve as librarians twice weekly for two hours a week, giving the school three volunteer librarians. The new volunteers have met with the principal.

Community Engagement

Pruitt said she wanted three to five concrete ideas to be decided upon before the meeting was over.

Sherilynn distributed the “Working Systematically” packet and explained some of its key points. She will share the link to a U.S. Education Department webinar on community engagement to Toby for his to share with other PTA officers. It was reiterated that face-to-face requests work much better than email. ... Sherilyn told the story of a Connecticut school that recruited nonparent adults to be responsible for each of the students in the school, resulting in a high jump in academic achievement.

Mark will put a list of PTA volunteer tasks on the Shepherd Park Citizens Association listserv. Mark will also get school folders left over from the Jan. 10 open house to make available at the Jan. 13 SPCA potluck.

Carl agreed to be the LSAT’s representative to the SPCA.

We’ll look for a “note from the principal” to be part of the next SPCA newsletter.

Mark will look for websites to Shepherd’s feeder schools and have the school site webmaster create links to them.

Mark will also talk with someone from the SPCA about getting a copy made for us of their mailing labels for our own mailing – not using the SPCA mailing permit. This could be used for a quarterly school update newsletter (a “mini-Mustang”) or for PTA fundraising/development.

After discussion there was broad consensus by a show of hands to do the following:
An Earth Day Event.

Offering the use of Shepherd’s facilities for performances by such groups as Princess Mhoon Dance Institute, children’s Theatre Workshop, Sugarfoots, as well as inviting the community to Shepherd’s own “Blues Jazz and Message songs” concert, Jazz Night, and BWL and Strings Show.

A Shepherd presence at the SPCA potluck.

A principal’s note in the SPCA newsletter.

A volunteer request on the SPCA listserv.

Finding a permanent SPCA liaison, preferably a Shepherd parent.

A Shepherd Elementary newsletter to be sent to the Shepherd Park community.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 4 p.m. at the school.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Pattison, secretary
Shepherd Elementary LSAT