AGATE Parent Meeting

November 7, 2017

Newport Elementary School

Ronnie Kay Erwin opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Ronnie Kay read the minutes from the last AGATE meeting. Then motion was made to accept the minutes and seconded. Minutes Accepted.

Mrs. Erwin talked about the GT program to all of the parents and asked for any questions about the program.

Presentation of Officers for Election: Board Meetings are noon at Pizza Hut

President elect – Jamie Stanfill – Ami Driver made the motion for President with second by Tamya Stallings. Motion passed.

Ronnie Kay Erwin made a motion for the officers to serve two years in a row instead of 1. Second by Ami Driver. Motion passed.

Richard Carraway has been the treasurer for the past 2 years. Dr. Bennett gets a copy of the checkbook one time a year. Motion made for Jessica Caraway to serve as Treasurer by Ronnie Kay Erwin. Seconded by Ami Driver. Motion passed.

Vice President elect – Kay Woodruff – motion for Vice President by Ami Driver. Seconded by Ronnie Kay Erwin. Motion passed.

Secretary elect – Tamya Stallings – motion made by Ronnie Kay Erwin. Seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report $5,322.49 balance. $3755.00 is committed to Space Camp. Anyone making checks out for Space Camp should make it to Newport AGATE.

GT web site is under construction.

Business:

* Revising bylaws to two years for officers
* Pre AP for 5th and 6th grade is going well reported by Ami Driver
* 4th grade GT additional minutes and unit on Currency and the Federal Reserve – Ronnie Kay Erwin reported that 150 minutes was the minimum for pull out in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. Currently 400 minutes is being done because of AP – we are going over and above.
	+ 4th grade is meeting 2-3 times from 9:15 to 10:15 am. To discuss Economics and Currency – one student reported on what she has learned and her mother discussed what her daughter has taught her from the class.
* GT screening has changed from 2nd grade to 3rd grade because of the ACT Aspire for the 4th, 5th and 6th grade.
* Talent Pool - For those not qualifying for GT there is a place in the Talent Pool for creative students that doesn’t necessarily have the academic grades.
* Community Quiz Bowl – Last year it was $100 per team for them to join. It was in the spring at the First Baptist Church. They served hamburger meal for $5 as well. Do we want to do the quiz bowl again this year? Jessica Caraway made the motion to continue with a second by Tonya Haigwood. Motion passed.
* Elementary Quiz bowl – motion made to have this again this year. Seconded. Motion passed.
* Chess – Discussion on the possibility for having someone work after school with kids to teach them chess. Jessica Caraway has a person that works with them – James Hawk – that can possibly work with the students. Ronnie Kay Erwin will have to get approval from the school and see if James Hawk is willing to assist.
* Space Camp this coming May – 5th and 6th grade will be attending in Huntsville, Alabama; 4-5 hour drive; leave on Monday and return on Wednesday; next year the 5th and 6th grade will attend Marine Biology; report by Ami Driver
* Readers Theater – 5th and 6th grade did a great job with the event; there will probably be another one in the spring; report by Ami Driver

New Business

* Chess discussion will be discussed with school for approval

Panel Discussion on the importance of Pre-AP and AP

* Background on AP: Timothy Watson went to the East Coast and came back because all the students had AP and he didn’t. Ronnie Kay Erwin was on the AGATE board and figured out the state was going to eventually mandate this so she wanted to go ahead and get it started at Newport. Nettleton, Harrisburg, and Newport all had 7-12th grade teachers that were trained in AP. Tommy Sue Anthony was the individual that started it in Arkansas and it went worldwide. She actually came to Newport to help get it started.
* AIMS Grant – Newport was 1 of 10 in Arkansas to get the grant. Newport gave it up 2 years into it because the board didn’t want to move forward. There was a 28% passage rate on the test. Students were surveyed that went to college and 99% said yes it helped them. Newport was 1 in 66 in the world for this. The grant was for $20,000-25,000 a year.
* 3 AP teachers are on site to discuss their experience as AP teachers and students: Jonathan Ward, Gary Shumate, and Haley Chambliss. Jonathan teaches 7th, 8th, and 9th grade and has been teaching for 8 years. He didn’t have AP classes in high school. Haley Chambliss had pre AP in high school. She is now a 1st year teacher certified in AP. Gary Shumate is a 2015 Harding graduate. He helps on the farm with his family but has a degree and had AP that helped him breeze through writing classes in college because of his experience.
* If parents want their child to go on this path then it is never too early to start. It can help them learn to study. AP students also have the accountability and help each other in classes. If you don’t sit for the AP exam at the end of the year you don’t get credit. It helps their GPA because they get more points for grades in AP classes. It helps with critical thinking for the students. Some colleges will give college credit for AP classes depending on the school.