

## DRAFT Until Approved by the UPG Board

United Parents Group Executive Board Meeting – April 24, 2009

Attendees: Paula Barvin, Jim Butt, Cherie Leather, Kate Darwin, Christa Sywulak-Herr, Sherry Hazelwood, Maureen Boland, Marlene Dencker, Dayna Glantz

### **Welcome & Approval of Minutes:**

Paula & Jim welcomed all, then motioned to approve February 2009 minutes.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Sherry Hazelwood reported that the UPG had \$410.00 in expenses last month. The current balance is \$1,953.00 in checking account, and \$788.05 in the Money Market account. Sherry predicts UPG will have big expenditures from now until the close of school as we host a UPG luncheon. Sherry questioned whether UPG can afford to sponsor 2 workshops in 2009-2010 or whether it would be more reasonable to plan for only one. Also, Sherry proposed eliminating baby sitting as it is generally under utilized but still a significant expense. Finally, Jim asked Sherry to prepare a proposed budget for 2009-2010 outlining estimated expenses.

### **Presidents' Report:**

Jim introduced the proposed 2009-2010 UPG nominations. He also provided a motion by Rhonda Feder (in absentia) for a proposed by-law change which suggested UPG increase the number of member-at-large positions from 6 to 7 and that the UPG representatives from each of the schools could fill the members-at-large positions. Jim said that all UPG nominees will be voted upon at the May 12, 2009 meeting.

Jim reported the next Educational Affairs meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2009. Dr. Lewis will be attending the meeting and the topic will be Universal Acceleration.

### **PTO Sharing:**

#### Cheltenham High School:

Sweeny Todd is this year's musical at the High School and it is not suggested for children under 13 years of age.

Also, CHS is hosting a Film Festival that begins tonight, April 24, 2009.

#### Elkins Park:

The "Can you Dig It?" fundraiser was held on Sunday, April 19, 2009 and it was a huge success raising several thousand dollars for the EP garden.

Concerns were expressed about the conditions of the bathrooms at EP. It has been reported that at least one of the girls bathrooms is missing doors on the stalls and is frequently out of soap and toilet paper.

Also, questions were raised about the security at EP as it seems the front and sides doors are usually unlocked with no security person present.

#### Myers:

It seems the Myers students are greatly looking forward to moving into their new school. The district plans to open the school to visitors in June.

Wyncote:

Wyncote is finishing up a year long, "No Place for Hate" video project that has been named "Kidspeak". The video is being edited and the school plans to show it at the Hi-Way theater in Jenkintown, PA in early June.

Concerns were raised by a few Wyncote parents about the alleged culture of Wyncote's lunchroom and recess. Some students have reported that lunchroom aides are setting unrealistic expectations of the students by insisting on a silent lunch as well as not allotting enough time for students to eat. Moreover, some parents wonder about the level of supervision on the playground. These concerns segued into a larger group discussion regarding the level of training and professional development offered to the district's aides & cafeteria staff, as well as the nutritional value of the school lunches.

Glenside:

Glenside held a Diversity Festival last night, April 23, 2009 that was widely attended and well received.

Glenside is preparing for a move to the modulars over near Elkins Park School and the district has set up several trips for students and teachers to go over and see their temporary home.

**Guest Speaker:**

Dr. Ray Bavi, the Director of Support Services, was this month's guest speaker. Dr. Bavi led a discussion on the district's use of "green energy". He pointed out that the new Myers building strived for a LEED rating and was successful as it obtained a "silver" rating, which is the third out of four ratings. ("LEED is an internationally recognized certification system that measures how well a building or community performs across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.") Dr. Bavi hopes that the new Glenside building will obtain an even higher rating than Myers.

Dr. Bavi spoke at length about the conditions of various schools in the district, primarily focused on Glenside. He acknowledged that many of the district's facilities have great room for improvement regarding green energy use. He is currently conducting a district wide energy audit, which will provide a detailed account of the district's areas for improvement. He is very enthusiastic about the support he receives within the district and hopes that we can create a more efficient and greener district.

Dr. Bavi concluded his presentation and answered a few questions (i.e. regarding security at EP as previously mentioned in PTO notes.)

Meeting adjourned.