Parent council meeting
March 17, 2015

Tammy Young gave an update on the read-a-thon (now called the Reading Olympics). A flier has gone home with the kids, who can begin getting sponsors based on a per-minute of reading or flat-rate. The Reading Olympics runs from April 1st through April 10th. Prizes will be given to kids and on April 30th there will be announcements for Gold, Silver and Bronze to the classrooms that have accumulated the most minutes read.

We are still looking for art to be volunteered for the Art Walk. A local sorority is willing to assist with planning and helping with the event, talk to Sarah Campbell for information.

Katie Westerman gave an update on the carnival. The local carnival has been moved to May 15th from 5:30-8:30. There will be pizza, Prince Pucklers and Coconut Bliss as well as art and balloon twisters. One idea mentioned was a fundraiser called, 'tape the teacher to the wall'. Katie passed a sign up sheet around for those who want to help. She also needs outdoor umbrella stands, Tammy Young offered to bring some. Chris Miller suggested a photo booth idea. There will be no kids raffle this year. There's also talk of a mini raffle of three larger items such as a trip, an iPad, etc.

There was a discussion about when to schedule the Jog-a-Thon for next year. We made about $5k less this year than last, but it's hard to determine if it was because of the move to the fall this year. Get in touch with Tasha Hennings with any ideas.

Chris Miller gave an update from the Site Council. There was a discussion about the Smart Balance testing. Since it will be a long and challenging test, there is talk of having extra snacks for the kids, with parent volunteers bringing them with the aid of Sign-Up Genius. An offer was extended to a new superintendent of public schools, but there is no word on his acceptance yet. No new families will be lotteried into Edison for next year, but siblings of existing lotteried families are eligible. Teachers have been added to the eNews list. Teacher appreciated week is being arranged by Jennifer Ensminger and Sarah Campbell will be leading it, please share any thoughts or ideas with either of them.

Tammy Young gave a special thank you to many parent volunteers who
have helped with the many volunteer events this year.

Tom Horn gave an update on the current and future revenue forecast. We are underfunded for next year at this stage. We funded 11 hours, equivalent to 75k, this year for educational assistants. Tom encouraged parents to write letters to state senators to increase funding, which is critically low. Nobody expected revenues for education to come in this low, which is not based on state revenues, which actually increased. If stability funding happens, then we will get to make good choices on how to spend the extra funds next year. 4J has funded full-day kindergarten for next year but this will require cuts in other areas including custodial and EA cuts.

Trevor Betenson showed off our new t-shirts and sweatshirts and provided a funding update. We've sold about $800 worth of shirts, almost breaking even so far. We are at $21k for the direct drive. We've raised $68k this year so far.

There was a conversation on where to spend the parent-generated funds for next year. There was a vote and first valued was educational assistance, followed by PE/Music and Artists in Residence coming in third. Tom is submitting the paperwork to extend the school day and would involve all staff members in adding additional curriculum, known as Extended Learning.