

THE BELOW MINUTES WERE REVIEWED, APPROVED AND VOTED TO EWSIS PTA  
RECORDS ON: February 7, 2009  
PTA Meeting  
East West School of International Studies  
Saturday, January 10, 2009  
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am.

Ms. Umstead moved to approve the December meeting minutes; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Ms. Powell, Co-President, stated that the financial report would be available for the February meeting.

### **Updates and Developments**

Ms. Darcy Hector reported on the progress of the e-mail blaster, an effort to enhance the PTA's communications to parents. She reported that the service was up and running as evidenced by some parents acknowledging receipt of the meeting reminder electronically. Ms. Hector reported that currently there are approximately 200 contacts in the database. The updated list needs to include the name of parent, student, grade, and e-mail address for each contact. It was agreed that the Secretary, Ms. Beverly Harris, would share parent contact information with Ms. Darcy and amend the attendance sheet to include student grade.

The proposal to acquire resources for Korean drums and utility carts will be followed up at the next meeting,

Ms. Powell reported that the school was facing severe budget cuts. Mr. Sherman stated that 150K was lost from our school budget in December and expected additional cuts in January and September of 2009. Ms. Powell articulated the PTA's desire to offset this shortfall of funding and facilitated a brainstorming of fundraising ideas. Suggestions were as follows:

- Talent Show
- International Night
- Carnival Day
- Penny Drive

A motion to form a fundraising committee to establish goals and plan activities was seconded, approved, and carried. The secretary will contact the committee members for availability for a meeting prior to the February meeting.

### **New Business**

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) & Summer Camp- the Parent Coordinator, Ms. Sehn reported that applications will be on hand in March and April. Information regarding these programs will be available on EWSIS' website soon. Ms. Powell stated that she has collected information regarding free summer programs throughout the city and information will also be available on the website in the coming week.

Black History Month – In celebration of important people and events in African American culture, there will be a myriad of activity at the school to include trips, hallway displays, and a muster presentation by Mr. Smith. Chaperones for trips will be needed and parents are encouraged to attend and participate in these activities.

### **Informational Disclosures**

On Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 6:00 pm there will be a presentation of “Working: A Celebration of Everyday Heroes”, an EWSIS production. This “extravaganza” will feature the school chorus, the drama club, the dance club, and the Korean drumming troupe. Tickets are \$1 and \$3 for students and adults respectively. Mr. Smith, the assistant principal, shared the flyer with the PTA and reported disappointment in the number of tickets sold. It was suggested by Mr. Lo that the flyers be multi-lingual.

Ms. Sermon reported on the success of the surprise party for the high school held prior to the holiday break. The students were indeed surprised and fun was had by all.

Ms. Hinnant suggested that the student government be represented at the PTA meetings to express the voice and concerns of the students.

### **Principal’s Report**

Relative to Title I, Principal Sherman reported that there were no changes since his last report.

We are now in the second school trimester, which lasts nine weeks. High school students may earn ½ credits during this time. This is the time administration and staff looks at reprogramming for the rest of the year. The third trimester begins in March.

Principal Sherman reported on his recent trip to China, upon which he toured a high school. The school of 1,500 students is located on the outskirts of Shanghai and reached by taking a train and bus, similarly to how one travels to EWSIS from Manhattan. Class size on the average is about 45 students (reduced from 55) and the school provides for superior math and science education. Principal Sherman hopes to cultivate a sister-school relationship to include a student/teacher exchange program and expects to host the principal here in the spring.

### **School Report**

Mr. Smith, Assistant Principal provided the PTA with the revised dates for ELA testing, January 21st & 22nd, for grades 6, 7, 8 and January 23rd for grade 6. Due to the Presidential Inauguration on January 20th, the test dates were changed by one day. He shared with the PTA a presentation and brochure he created to provide parents with tips to aid in prepping students for the ELA test and more importantly, to establish on-going support to strengthen reading and writing skills. Mr. Smith emphasized that during days of testing, parents should keep the home environment, activities, and behaviors as normal as possible.

Ms. Shim, Guidance Counselor spoke extensively about college prep and the upcoming college tour. The college tour for sophomores and seniors to NY and Philadelphia is scheduled for March. The cut off date to sign up for the trip is January 31. The trip is overnight and includes a trip to the American Museum of History. (11th graders are encouraged to attend, as this trip will help toward the US History and Government Regents exam.) Ms. Shim stated that she needs five more students to go to keep the trip scheduled. It was posed that the costs may be an obstacle to higher student participation.

Ms. Sermon suggested that boxes of candy be available year-round to offset the expense of the college tours and other senior/college expenses. Ms. Shim discussed up-coming

fundraising activities such as the Student/Faculty Volley Ball Competition, which proceeds will be used to help defray college-bound students' costs. Parents are encouraged to support these events.

Ms. Shim discussed resources available for college readiness. She shared handouts, "Countdown to College", grade specific information to help students and parents prepare for college academically and financially. Materials for grades 9-12 were made available. Ms. Shim asserted that "it is never too early to plan!" Similar materials are being developed for middle-school students by Mr. Diaz.

Ms. Shim also shared brochures on scholarships by the Sallie Mae Fund. These materials identify sources for money for college by particular demographic group, i.e.: Black College Dollars, Latino College Dollars, Asian-American College Dollars, NYC Students, etc.

Ms. Shim elaborated on the Trimester System. The second trimester started Jan. 3rd and ends on March 4th. Grades earned for classes 9-12 during this period, are placed on the permanent transcript. 8th graders need a minimum of 8 credits to be promoted to 9th grade. For students whose promotion is in doubt, letters will be sent out no later than the second week in February.

Ms. Shim relayed how she is working with students to distinguish themselves to become more competitive for the college entrance process. She cited an example of 11th grade student, Lanice James. Lanice, a poet was encouraged to enter a contest and is now published.

Ms. Shim talked about PSAT and SAT test prep and test dates. 11th graders should take their first SAT on March 14th. There are SAT test prep programs available for free (i.e.: [www.Kaplan.com](http://www.Kaplan.com) or 1-800-KAPTEST. This is the first year that a student can take an unlimited number of exams and submit the highest test score (note- \$45.00 per exam). Fee waivers for exam fee are available, see [www.collegebd.com](http://www.collegebd.com) . There will be financial planning for college seminars for parents available throughout the city; information will be available at a later date. Student of the month certificates were presented by Principal Sherman.

Ms. Umstead motioned to end the meeting. Mr. Frank Hong seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted:

Beverly Harris,  
PTA Secretary