

PARENTS FOR GIFTED EDUCATION
*Advocates for the Centralized Academic &
Creative and Performing Arts Gifted Program
Rockford Public Schools District 205*

Minutes

Monday, April 3, 2006

West Middle School Library 6:30 pm Business meeting 7:00 pm Program

The meeting was called to order by John Torrence, the president.

Attendance : Six people attended. There were no written minutes from the previous meeting in February.

- I. Treasurer's Report Tom Chuckna presented the treasurers report.
 - A. He noted that we have received two \$250 gifts from Hamilton Sundstrand in his name and Craig Milius. One of the gifts went to the Ruth Harris Scholarship Fund and one to the general organization's fund.
 - B. Ruth Harris Scholarship Fund- IT was moved, seconded, and passed that Tom be authorized to put the remaining money after giving the first scholarship into a CD account to earn better interest than in the current checking account.

II. Old Business

a. Next Meetings

1. The May meeting was changed from May 1 to May 8 due to conflicts in Dr. Thompson's schedule. John will solicit questions from parents to give to Dr. Thompson ahead of time. Mary Makulec will make up a one page flyer to announce the meeting. She will see if she can get it copied. She will distribute it to King, and John will get it distributed to students at West and Auburn.

- b. Ruth B. Harris Scholarship- We have received three applications. The committee will meet to determine the winner.

- c. Teacher Appreciation night- April 28 We are looking for volunteers to offer their home for the event and for others to offer donations of food or help to serve and clean up.

IV. Other Business

- a. IAGC report- Terry Mohaupt urged all parents to communicate to state representatives to support the funding for gifted. This week is the last week to do so. He also highlighted the online AP Physics offering from the University of Virginia, that is fully funded.
- b. Yolanda Simmons
 1. Yolanda will provide statistics, when available, on the testing done this year.
 2. She discussed the workshops offered for teachers this summer and “pre-AP” workshops she is implementing for the gifted teachers. The purpose is to prepare students better for the AP courses in the Academy by getting the teachers together to clarify the curriculum at all grade levels.
- c. Spanish at West- We discussed the issue of high school credit for West Spanish students. The general feeling endorsed the directive to pursue getting the current West students the credit. We will get parents to come to the next board meeting and to persuade the School Board to take measures to allow the credit for this year’s students.

V. Program- Everyone contributed to develop a analysis that covered Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and limiting Threats to the Program which affect the Public Perception and ability to Market the program to the community. The results will be posted on the Web-site to begin a discussion about some steps we can take to improve the public perception of the program.