

9/12/08 KORT Minutes

Attendance:

Rick Stewart
Tammie Bissa
Sara Kerschner
Tashi Thandi
Steve Ruder
Lynda Malka
Sally Hui-Deschler
Jackie Andrews
Alison Orozco
Kathryn John
Deborah Zarate
Kathleen Crews
Sarah Miller
Leshundra Haughton
Heather Stockman
Britney Davey
Robyn Cruz
Jennifer Buerer
Sharon Croquette
Judy Romero

Pre-meeting announcements:

Jackie Andrews passed out a flyer for two Operation of Hope events. Operation of Hope is an organization that provides cleft lip and palate surgeries in underdeveloped countries. The "Collin's Smile" motorcycle ride is Sunday, October 19 and the Roseville Electronic Waste Collection event is November 1st. Jackie may be reached at andrews4@zetabroadband.com for more information.

Introductions and immediate needs:

The majority of people at the meeting were new to home schooling and said that they were somewhere between intimidated and overwhelmed by the task. We discussed possible ways to settle into a successful home schooling routine:

- The need to connect with other parents and families at PACT for mentoring, support, and fun. Jackie Andrews said there is currently a group of families who meet at local parks. We will explore this and other opportunities to connect with PACT families.
- Home schooling seminars. Informational forums on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at PACT. Childcare is provided. See Dani for proposed topics.

- Co-op classes. We discussed the effectiveness of parents banding together to teach select topics to their children in informal “class” groups. Co-ops generally work by parents either having a rotation teaching schedule (every 4th week for example) or by designating teaching by areas of expertise or focus (I’ll teach Chapter 1 and you teach Chapter 2). The benefit of co-op classes for parents is the ability to learn and teach a portion of the subject. Benefits for children include working with their peers and experiencing a different teaching style. Co-ops are formed by meeting like-minded parents with similar needs.
- Effectively using your advisor to get the best work from your children. Several parents mentioned struggling with getting their children to work for blocks of time and getting them to produce quality work. It was discussed that many children do not do their best work for their parents. Many PACT veterans have found that our children admire and have very positive relationships with their PACT advisors. Reminding children that their advisor will be looking for quality work samples and checking the amount of work done will frequently help to keep kids on track. It is best if this can be done in a positive way. The goal is to never ruin the positive relationship with the advisor.
- Teaching in neutral spaces. Several parents spoke about teaching away from home to avoid distractions that both parents and children face in their living environment. Spending some teaching time at a library or other public area can also have a benefit of reducing some struggles and outbursts that may be occurring at home.

General Business:

We discussed strategies for classes at the NCS site. Most of the information has changed since the meeting and has been covered in emails sent home. If you need current information on this topic, please see the newsletter.

Tabled Agenda Items:

Review of the NEF Fundraising account and expenditures proposed for 08-09

Do we need a steering committee or improved guidelines for spending NEF Fundraising account expenditures?

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

- Check-in about our current home schooling routine and effectiveness
- Upcoming events and opportunities
- Review of the NEF Fundraising Account
- Review guidelines for NEF Fundraising account expenditure process

Please send any other items to be added to the KORT agenda to scruder@gmail.com

Steve Ruder