

## **PTA's Taking Significant Action**

### **Application**

Endeavour PTSA 2.6.20  
Grade Level K-5  
Student count: 694

Submitting for a Program

**How to Survive a Boundary Change**  
**Endeavour Transitions for school year 2006-07**  
***"Courage to Change"***

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Local Unit Number 2.6.20  
Endeavour Elementary, Issaquah

**Program: How to Survive a Boundary Change**  
Endeavour Transitions for School Year 2006-07  
*"Courage to Change"*

Program is ideal for a school community going through a boundary change due to district growth or school closure.

**April 2005**

The Issaquah School District, faced with rapid growth and the construction of a new elementary school (set to open Fall 2006), unveils an attendance boundary change.

This boundary proposal was met with STRONG opposition from the three school communities affected by this change: Endeavour, Discovery, and Cascade Ridge Elementary Schools. Heated community meetings and threats of an organized opposition to the upcoming Bond & Levy permeated the parent community. The Boundary outcome would not be final until October 2005.

**May 2005**

Endeavour's newly elected Executive Board meets to plan the upcoming school year. The Boundary outcome is very much on the mind of the Executive Board. Early on in the planning stages the committee recognizes challenges ahead.

**Potential Challenges:**

- Parent community will disengage early in the school year.
- 100% membership will be impossible
- Volunteer support will be greatly diminished
- Fundraising will be extremely difficult
- School year will be a "bummer" for the kids

**Plan for Challenges**

- Came up with theme for the year, *"Courage to Change"*
- Include boundary change issues in Goals for school year
- Create new Board position, Transition Coordinator. Person would coordinate activities to minimize affects of boundary changes to our school community
- Plan for smaller fundraising efforts by adjusting our budget
- Create line item in budget to fund Transition activities
- Remain positive to our parent and learning community
- Schedule Parent University seminars; topics to include *coping with change*
- Children must be foremost in our plans

**October 2005 Boundary Outcome:**

- Endeavour will lose half of their 700 students to a new school (opening Fall 2006), leaving 350 at Endeavour.
- 10 out of 12 Executive Board members will be going to the new school (the 12<sup>th</sup> is moving on to middle school).
- Discovery Elementary loses 70 students, coming to Endeavour
- Cascade Ridge Elementary loses 220 students coming to Endeavour

**Unintended Consequence of Boundary Change**

Vocal parents remaining at Endeavour felt that their community was going to be the group that suffers most under the new change. To show their anger, some in the community began abandoning their volunteer commitments for the current school year. They equated the incoming population to the school as a "hostile takeover". They justified their pull-out by saying that they were going to have to run the school next year, so they need a break this year. Still reeling in pain over the outcome they began planning for the next school year, by setting up next year's Board of Directors (outside of the nominating process). They were laying out who would be President, Treasurer, etc.

**Additional Plans needed to offset *Unintended Consequences***

PTSA Co-Presidents met with Principal to update her on the climate of the community and how this could affect next year's climate. A plan was born that day, in the principal's office to have a positive, proactive approach to the challenges we found ourselves in.

**Plan**

Gather the parent communities that will be attending Endeavour the following year. Communicating the meeting would be done in each of the 3 schools newsletters. Meeting was held November 3, 2005. Our Region PTA Director as well as our 2 Council Presidents' were in attendance. Goals for this meeting:

- All communities would feel welcome
- Introduce parents to the Learning Community (Principal)
- Introduce parents to the PTSA Community (Presidents)
- Present goals PTSA has for this transition
- Begin to alleviate anxieties that parents might be having
- Ask parents what their children need to make this transition
- Seek representation on the nominating committee from each of the 3 communities that will be at Endeavour next year
- Develop a data base of parents wanting to partner with PTSA to work on a smooth transition for next year. This group of parents would be referred to as the Transition Team.

## **Transition Team Activities**

**January 13, 2006** PTSA developed a *Frequently Asked Questions* document to be placed on PTSA and school website, [www.endeavourptsa.org](http://www.endeavourptsa.org) (*see attachment*). The three school communities promoted this document through their school newsletters.

### **January 18**

Parent University seminar, Lorna Wiltturner, PhD in counseling, "*How to help adults and children transitioning to new schools.*" Our Issaquah PTA Council Parent University Representative set this up for us (*see attachment*).

### **February 16,**

Transition Team Meeting

25 Parents met to plan activities to help children over the next 6 months. These activities include:

- 1) School tour/ice cream social in the late Spring– tour guides will be current students who will remain at Endeavour next year
- 2) Logo wear – to build school identity
- 3) School supplies – continuing a program that each of the 3 communities affected enjoy at their existing school...the selling of pre packaged school supplies as a service to families
- 4) Pen pal program for children who would like to begin a "friendship" with a child they will be going to school with next year.

Each of these areas are comprised of parents from the communities that will be attending Endeavour next year.

## **Program Evaluation...Measurers of Success**

Community did not disengage:

- We are at 100% membership!
- Those who "abandoned" their volunteer positions early on, are now back on board contributing strongly to the Transition Team. They are looking forward to the new school year.
- PTSA endorsed the District's Bond & Levy package, contributing \$1,000 to the campaign. Community participated in phone-a-thon and Honk and Wave activities related to the passing of the Bond and Levy.
- Executive Board (all are leaving Endeavour this year) proposed significant PTSA gifts to next year's community:  
\$20,000 technology grant for Document cameras and LCD projectors  
\$11,000 for emergency preparedness supplies. General Membership voted to fund these.
- Endeavour's Reflections art program had 183 entries (more than any other school in the district)
- Data base of 44 parents who actively want to be involved on working committees to help with Transition efforts.
- Spring Walkathon fundraiser will have a "Happy Trails" theme with an over riding tone of celebration