

The older parents spoke of their experiences with freeschools and the story of the Farm. The Farm started as a socially active splinter group of a church in Oceanside. John Richardson said that one of the things they've noticed in the six years of the Farm is that kids fresh from public school seem to need a few months to settle down, and then they start doing 'academics.'

He said that academic structure in the school has waxed and waned, and offered the idea that structures are not something to question as right or wrong per se, but might be right for a time---temporal structures.

Eileen Lafferty told of her experiences at Pepper Canyon, a freeschool that used to be in the Del Mar - UCSD area. She said it folded because the parents were not involved---it was being held together by a few key people. "When your system gets so smooth that you no longer need the parents---you're through."

The insurance and field trips situation was discussed. None of the teachers has insurance and we've been traveling en masse in the back of Robert's pick-up truck. Some of the parents were alarmed.

Ernie Bassener remarked on the obscurity of our last (first) meeting and its lack of clear decision processes. Interesting in follow-up of this issue fact that no clear decision was made about the field trip/insurance situation, and the next hot day those post-teenagers and the youngsters packed off to the beach, albeit in the back of a different pick-up truck (having stake sides, no insurance). An attempt was made to sort out the kids whose parents had specifically requested that they not truck.

We did decide to establish a parents' bulletin board, and have a workday and cookout once a month.

At the next meeting, the teachers will tell about themselves.

Please consider your ideas about decision-making, and we will discuss that again.

We are going to have a barndance fundraiser (for buying a small schoolbus) at Halloween---Eileen Kilgallon and Ernie Bassener are coordinating.

Mary Silber and Eileen Lafferty are coordinating the next meeting.

We've started to have family conferences and they've been good.

Phyllis, one of our volunteer teachers has suggested and is organizing a workshop in early education. Any parents interested in attending, give us a call.

There are a number of things we must do in order to make our school safe and more functional so we've decided to have a work-day this Sunday, Oct. 17. Bring some vegetables and we'll throw together a stew.

The next parents' meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 24 at Colleen Richardson and Chris McDonough's home at 4:00, followed by dinner. 608 Puebla Leucadia.