

**Atkinson PTA
General Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2012**

Minutes taken by PTA Secretary Holly Boime.

Members present: Constance San Juan, Laura Mason, Haydee Lopez, Alissa Keny-Guyer, Andrea Pastor, Pia Nicastro, Francesca Qugliata, Karla Zirbes, Ann Weinstein, Terrie Hendrickson, Suzanne Harold, Holly Boime, Denise Dekker.

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. by PTA Vice President Terrie Hendrickson, filling in for President Suzanne Harold who is focusing her energy on the school auction.

Immersion Representative: Laura O'Hearn

Laura is leaving the school and she found two representatives to replace her on the board: Ann Winestein, and Maria Villanveva.

Financial Update: Constance San Juan

- Presented a copy of the monthly report.
- Yearbook sales are going well.
- Direct donation drive (DDD) is really slow.

Guest speaker: State Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer

- She's an ex-Atkinson parent. She was at Atkinson for 12 years with three different principals.
- She was appointed in September to be Ben Cannon's replacement.
- She discussed education topics and issues such as:
 1. Early Learning Council.
 2. After school programs and summer programs
 3. OEIB: created because there are many different agencies that are involved in education. So Chief Education Officer position created.
 4. State Milestones.
 5. Quality education model tied to quality education.
- She discussed health topics and issues such as:
 1. Health Transformation Committee which will help us to create more funding for schools.
 2. 20% or people use 80% of the resources, i.e. people with chronic illnesses. We need to keep people out of expensive hospitals visits and do preventative services.
- She has a public health degree.
- We have spent more money on prisons than education.
- Measure 5 capped property taxes.
- Measure 50 established what the different property tax values are.
- There two measures need to be overturned but can't be done by the legislature because they're in the constitution and so can only be changed by the people.
- There were some questions such as any legislation to make lunches healthier? And any energy going to lower class size?

A question was asked. What does the DDD support? Answer: listed on the DDD form and include items such as all field trips, running club, community events, talent shows, classroom supplies, etc.

Fundraising/Auction Update: Suzanne Harold

The auction will be Friday April 13 and will have some good items to bid on.

Outdoor Learning Garden (OLG) Update: Chairperson Denise Dekker

- Updating website
- West side of school-pea trellis, potatoes-every class can participate
- Summer camp: looking for interns/high school students.
- Organic planting mix called White Lightening from Dean Innovations for month of March and share of profits.

Principal’s Update: Debbie Armendariz

Debbie discussed the school’s adopting the common core state standards which are really the federal standards. The math instruction and assessments are changing. She gave an example of a 4th grade sample math problem in which a student would look at a mistake that someone made and correct it. So it’s important to have basic computer skills such as clicking, holding and dragging. The math uses models and visual representations such as algebra tiles. It helps high-achieving kids who don’t make a lot of mistakes by having them look at someone else’s work and explain what needs to be corrected. The hope is that this will lead to collaborative working in the future workplace.

She also discussed the school’s budget and related issues. She provided a table.

FTE=full time equivalency

	# of current FTE	# FTE funded through gen. fund	# of FTE Funded through Title I	# of FTE needed for next year
Homeroom Teachers	17	15.5	1.5	18
Specials (P.E., Music, Counselor, Librarian)	3.5	3.5	0	?
Interventionist (teacher that Works w/reading)	1	0	1	1
Secretary	.875	.875	0	.875
Total	23.25	19.875	2.5	?

The qualifications for Title I may be changing; the pot of Title I money has gotten smaller. The school may not get Title I funding because the requirements are changing to 60% of families at or below a certain income level qualifying for free and reduced lunch.

The school needs an additional teacher for the 4/5 grades next year because the incoming 4th grade is large. So may need 1 additional FTE. So may need to cut 2 FTE’s.

Another question from the group was asked. What ideas are you getting from staff?

Ms. O'Donnell and Ms. Winters are planning on retiring.

Another question from group? What about Zone school designation? Answer: Unknown at this time.

Another question from the group? Why not have an assistant to help with the 4/5 grades next year? Assistants are not allowed to teach. It's not an option for the principal.

On April 2, the principal will find out the requirements then will get some training. Then when all settled the principal will let us know by sending out a letter.

If you qualify for free or reduced lunch then you qualify for free full day kindergarten.

*Vote called to approve February meeting minutes:

Motion: Francesca Quagliata
Second: Constance San Juan
Passed by majority vote: Yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.