

**Atkinson PTA
General Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2012**

Minutes taken by PTA Secretary Holly Boime.

Members present: Andrea Pastor, Laura Mason, Maria Villanueva, Carolyn Dougan, Pia Nicastro, Danielle Willard, Michael Harrison, Alessandra Rueegger, Anne Myrthue, Jennifer Povich, Morgan Allen Constance San Juan, Ann Weinstein, Drew Raine, Keny Flowers, Francesca Quagliata, Karla Zirbes, Suzanne Harold, Holly Boime, Sarah Granger, Denise Dekker, Linda Macpherson.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by PTA Vice President Terrie Hendrickson.

Carnival Update: Carolyn Dougan

- Revamping-maybe turn into bigger fundraiser
- Need more volunteers
- 25 cents/ticket?
- Have bundles of free tickets in office?
- Painting projects-primed but need painting
- Two different work parties will be scheduled
- Game assignments: need about 30 volunteers for 10 games with three rotations each.
- Cake walk may be a fundraiser
- Need food handler's license for cake walk
- Dunk tank
- Will be borrowing a popcorn machine
- Snow cone machine
- Burgerville has given coupons to use as game prizes for 150-300 kids cones
- Volunteer contact info will be in the FYI

Volunteer opportunities: Jennifer Povich

She provided a hand-out which lists volunteer opportunities for April-June. Also announced that May is walk and bike challenge month.

Outdoor Learning Garden (OLG) Update: Denise Dekker

- Updating website
- Greenhouse in multicultural garden will be getting a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Have grant for outdoor signage
- West side of school-pea trellis, potatoes-every class can participate
- Summer camp: half full, weekly rates, Alicia will be leading.

Financial Update: Constance San Juan

- 4/5 grade field trip: \$2,099 raised from tamale sale; \$6,613 raised total (includes Read-a thon and Fused glass sale)
- Direct donation drive (DDD) has stagnated at about \$10,000
- Plant sale netted \$750 for 5th Grade Activities

Auction Update: Francesca Quagliata and Suzanne Harold

The auction was last Friday, April 13, and it was a great time. The PTA netted about \$15,000 (could be more) and around 130 people attended; last year 150 people attended, so ticket sales went down. Those that didn't attend the auction will be encouraged to give to the DDD.

General Announcements and Questions: Suzanne Harold

OLG has an eats out event on May 24 at Country Cat; the restaurant owners are Atkinson parents.

Question: How much more money is needed for the 4/5 grades overnight field trips?

Answer: About \$4,600 more is needed.

Question: Where are the 4/5 overnight field trips?

Answer: Different classes go to different places, like Hancock Field Station (OMSI) and Opal Creek.

Denise Dekker said we should spread the word regarding the DDD; people can use Pay Pal online and contribute as little as \$5/month. The DDD was used to replace other fundraisers and be a “no stuff” fundraiser.

Question: What happened with Run for the Arts?

Answer: We haven't heard back from Traci Sullivan, the Atkinson coordinator of the event.

Principal's Update: Debbie Armendariz

- Cutting 3.28 FTE, lost Title I funding
- Celebrated work in closing the achievement gap. Atkinson was one of two in the district and one of seven in the state to receive this honor/award. Received \$3,000 from Nike which will go towards the school's equity team.
- All Hands Raised (formerly Portland Schools Foundation) gave us an equity grant which will be used for school improvement in reading, equity, ESL, etc.
- The Atkinson Amigos attended a budget meeting and they were global and coherent in voicing their opinions. PPS central office responded by giving (back) one additional FTE for a reading specialist. 1 FTE may be divided between two people, one for Spanish and one for English learners.
- Will have .5 FTE counselor.
- .5 FTE for Librarian. There's a program requirement which shows the library must be open during the school day.
- .38 FTE for PE It will allow 1 session of PE by a PE teacher/classroom per week and then 1 session of PE by classroom teachers per week.
- Teachers will have less release time-time (when they're not teaching) during the school day.
- EA budget: 2 FTEs will have employee benefits cut back.

Question: If the teachers' union agreed to do furloughs what would happen?

Answer: It would save \$1 million/day. We would gain 2.28 FTE and would reinstate P.E. and get another 4/5 grade teacher.

Question: Why P.E.?

Answer: It provides health and physical instruction. It's a district priority; we need a whole program with two PE sessions per week.

Question: Why not have teachers do all PE and fund music?

Answer: Principal wants to take things out of teacher's hand; it's a workload issue.

Question: Where does the PE requirement come from?

Answer: It came in a 2009 state requirement that was unfunded. It requires 225 hrs/elementary which is more than 2x/wk.

Question: Why not get music teacher?

Answer: We'd have only .5 FTE music.

Question: How would a .5 FTE music work?

Answer: Think how one would split it up?

Question: Could running club be P.E.?

Answer: No, it has to have a teacher and include instruction.

Question: What can be done to change the reality? Can we fundraise to pay for teachers?

Answer: It's possible through a Foundation, but it costs about \$80,000-90,000.

Open discussion

Foundations can be used to pay for positions.

Constance San Juan provided some background on ballot Measure 5, in 1990, and ballot measure 47, which has led to the state's current school funding system. Constance has a written summary that she will share with others.

Oregon is one of five states in the union which doesn't have a sales tax.

PPS has a liberal transfer system.

Title I funding cut because PPS decided to raise the requirement from 40-60% of the students at on free and reduced lunch.

Denise Dekker: There's discussion about how to get more volunteers. The PTA board has been working on it and recognizes that we need more involvement because "we're burning out."

Linda Macpherson: We need to concentrate on specific opportunities for volunteers. We need to identify ways to engage working parents.

Molly Haynes: Are there retired grandparents that can volunteer?

What about local activism to form political committee?

Anne Weinstein will be point person for advocacy to get volunteers to form a committee to get an Atkinson foundation created.

Question: How big do the 4/5 classes have to be to get an extra teacher-from the state?

Answer: 37-38 students

*Vote called to approve March meeting minutes:

Motion: Pia Nicastro

Second: Denise Dekker

Passed by majority vote: Yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.