

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

*Minutes taken by PTA Secretary Holly Boime.*

Members present: Constance San Juan, Drew Raine, Suzanne Harold, Amy Liber, Jennifer Povich, Karla Zirbes, Kim Heron, Francesca Quagliata, Sara Wright, Linda Macpherson, Laura Mason, Alessandre Ruegger, Tony Morento, Laura Minato

*Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by PTA President Suzanne Harold*

**Volunteer opportunities: Jennifer Povich**

Jennifer provided a yellow hand-out which lists upcoming volunteer opportunities such as carnival, book fair and for next year's events.

- Amy Liber will be the Volunteer Coordinator next year.
- The volunteer appreciation celebration is Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.
- This Friday some Spanish immersion parents will be hosting a staff potluck. Thank you to Sara Wright for coordinating teacher appreciation week.

**A Goodbye from Music Teacher Kim Heron:** Thank you for 18 years at Atkinson.

She graduated in 1980 from the Boston Conservatory of Music. She moved to Oregon and starting subbing. She taught at the Harriet Tubman Arts Magnet School where she worked 3 years at the middle school. She's also taught at Buckman, Abernathy working .5 FTE and had two children. The Principal at Atkinson asked her to come to this school. She started with .5 FTE then it went to .8 FTE and in 1999 she received the Excellence in Education award and got the boys, bathroom off the gym to use as the music room. She had a cart and would go around room to room. Two bathrooms became classrooms due to seismic upgrades. Little plays were performed in the cafeteria. Marianne, a kindergarten teacher, did plays to educate the whole child. It's not just because of her, Ms. Heron, that there's music. "Be gentle" with the next music teacher. "Give that person time." There's been lots of assemblies such as multicultural, wildlife diversity, etc. She says she'll be okay. She applied for a job at Mount Tabor. She can retire. She used to perform at the Courtyard Plaza with the band, drum group and choir. The drum group used to go on tour. The band used to play all over at different venues and on the radio. Ms. Heron has asked for a better sound system, the music curriculum, and instruments. Instruments which have been bought by the PTA and gathered from other schools will be given to other schools which can use them. This Saturday there'll be a rally at Drexter Park at 1 p.m. - 1:30/1:45 p.m. The spring concert will be on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. and the nighttime performance at 6:30 p.m. Thank you for your time.

**Foundation Committee update: Drew Raine:**

- Survey results: 178 respondents — working for music
- Meeting planned at Rain and Shine Coffee House at 6-7 p.m. (date TBD) for all those interested in helping.
- Deadline to raise money for next year is June 30.

**Upset Rally-last Friday**

- Impassioned speeches
- Anne W. has three videos including both songs and Dominic Paz's video. Where could it be posted? Answer: Atkinson Elementary Facebook page or PTA website.
- Anyone take video of Kim's speech?
- Legislative committee met.

- May 31 Day of Action Event: Save our Schools (SOS). Atkinson will have a letter writing party with paper, envelopes, and who our legislators are. We'll get kids involved too. It'll be by the NE corner of the school in the big yard next to the school.
- There was a May 29 Invest in Oregon meeting.
- There was a phone conversation with Ben Cannon set up by Karla.
- Question: Who's Atkinson aligned with? Answer: We haven't figured that out yet.

### **Outdoor Learning Garden (OLG): Denise Dekker**

- Next week spring celebration:
  1. Monday—OLG 2 p.m. meeting,
  2. Tuesday—4H presentations,
  3. Wednesday—cleanup,
  4. Thursday—Country Cat fundraiser and popsicle and kickball party who whichever classroom earns the most money,
  5. Friday—workday.

### **Principal's Update: Debbie Armendariz**

- have .5 FTE counseling vacancy because Ms. Winters is retiring
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher Jennifer O'Donnell is retiring
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade immersion teacher—need one year temporary position
- Librarian: not known
- Educational Assistants (EA's) Patrina (sp?) and Lien—it's highly unlikely that they will stay here-funded by ESL.

### **Budget Shortfall**

- at this point, we have a \$20,000 shortfall; Atkinson PTA didn't raise enough money this year to cover this year's projected expenses.
- Direct donation drive (DDD) given a final push on yahoo list serve and Atkinson list serve.
- Question: What did Auction raise? Answer: about \$16,000
- Denise Dekker: The after school Shine and language classes need to break even. And the PTA took on fundraising for the 4/5 grade field trips to help the teachers.
- We need more community support.

\*Vote called to approve March and April meeting minutes:

Motion: Jennifer Povich

Second: Amy Liber

Passed by majority vote: Yes

*Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.*