

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2012

Minutes taken by PTA Secretary Holly Boime.

Members present: Laura Mason, Andrea Pastor, Carolyn Martin Dougan, Haydee Coper, Maria Villanvevo, Vernando Rodriguez, Beth Grebstadt, Constance San Juan, Robin Feidelson, Debbie Armendariz, Ann Weinstein, Susan Allen, Carissa Harrison, Anya King, Pia Nicastro, Diana Cameron, Amy Liber, Trish Parks, Denise Dekker, Suzanne Harold, Karla Zirbes, and Francesca Quagliata.

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. by PTA President Suzanne Harold

PTA President Suzanne Harold is resigning because she can't get balance in her life, She feels "like (she's) going from emergency to emergency."

At the same time PTA vice-president (VP) Terrie Hendricks is moving to Vancouver B.C. Dunja Jennings is interested in the PTA VP position but can't be elected today because two weeks advanced notice is required.

Outdoor Learning Garden (OLG): Denise Dekker

- The website has been updated with nine new sections.
- There's a new sign on Division Street kiosk and in the back of the school.
- There's a goal to get a greenhouse to grow and sell plants.
- Diane Jacobs is designing a new t-shirt to sell with the Chinook Book sales.
- There's talk of having a fundraiser with homemade preserves-for fun.
- Chad Honnel (sp?) found tree to dedicate to Ms. Heron.
- Country Cat fundraiser raised \$.
- Scott Eiesland has volunteered to be the groundskeeper coordinator.
- The last Saturday of August will be community care day. Denise Dekker will coordinate it. Could use indoor coordinator too. Pia Nicastro, parent volunteer has agreed to do that part.
- OLG will meet with Principal to discuss equity in the gardens so all kids can go to the gardens on a regular basis.
- Anne Weinstein suggested the Clean Rivers Program which is free with the City of Portland-as a winter inside activity.
- Trying to promote OLG facebook page.
- There's a new Discovery Garden that's explained on the website and contains plants such as peas and beans.
- Alicia and Brooklyn will do the OLG summer camps.
- There'll be a 4H camp next year led by Alicia for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.

Carnival: Carolyn Dougan

- It raised \$2,000.

- Suzanne Harold says it was well-organized.
- There was no “store” this year.

Foundation Update: Susan

- A group was formed.
- A survey was sent out whose results there that 60% of those who responded want to focus on music.
- A phone bank is being set up. There were 10 volunteers who together made over 300 phone calls asking for money with a 30% response rate.
- They’ve raised over \$13,000 so far.
- They hope to do at least one phone bank per week through June 30th.
- Susan says that this is “one piece of the puzzle-one tool among many.”
- They’ll send out another survey asking donors how to deal with money including options such as enrichment at school, part-time teacher, .3 FTE which means 1 music session/week/classroom or “nugget” music exposure.

Denise Dekker expressed that the school budget has been used to not lose the reading specialist but to lose music. Principal Armendariz, states that’s “not a healthy way to be looking at it.” Beth stated, “from a political perspective education at the state and bigger districts would say that’s what they would expect-to get kids to read by the end of first grade.”

Constance says, “our intent is that we really miss music.”

Letter writing: Diana

- She says the event was “fabulous” –over 100 letters were written.
- Alyssa-K.-Guyer, our state representative was there.
- Looking into some political organization to align themselves with.

Amigos: Anne Weinstein

- They’re hosting four reading play dates which will be advertized in a flyer and the FYI.

Book Fair: Suzanne Harold

- Discussed book fair.

PTA Budget: Treasurer Constance San Juan

- Changes to the budget are highlighted.
- 4/5 overnight field trips—fundraisers: DDD, read-a-thon, PTA funds
- Script: estimating \$500/family/month and use pre-purchased gift cards with 4% return and don’t expire.
- Anne Weinstein noted that at a different school with 40 people participating they raised \$8,000 in 8 months with four volunteers selling script for an hour.

- Question: How does selling script work? Answer: packet with order form
- Question: Is there on-line script? Answer: only for a few stores.
- Script at Atkinson will start with the teachers to test it out.
- There's an on-line monthly plan.
- It will cost the school \$10 to pick up script gift cards every time it's done.
- Jennifer Povich is the script coordinator and believes a goal of earning \$15,000 for the year is reasonable. We'll start small with the teachers and PTA board members to test it out.
- There was a discussion about getting whiteboards for the classrooms. There was no vote as to whether or not to purchase the whiteboards.*
- Trish stated that there are ups and downs with fundraisers.
- Question: Is the budget set? Answer: the projected budget needs to be approved in June because we have expenses over the summer.

There was a discussion about the PTA clothes closet. Volunteers are needed 2x/year at Marshal High School.

There will be Playworks training this Thursday from noon to 3 p.m. in the gym. If you attend the training you are not expected to provide help with P.E. or recess.

There was discussion about the 4/5 grade field trip. It's a big expense. And someone expressed a concern that his/her child may not get to do it.

There was discussion about whether the budget is a conservative budget.

There was discussion about whether or not the family event budgets have been cut equally.

Principal's update: Debbie Armendariz

- A concern has been expressed to the Principal from the Vietnamese community. Because of China/Vietnam conflict members or the Vietnamese community don't want their children learning Mandarin.

Voted on changed to PTA budget:

- Lunar New Year budget will increase by \$100
- Amigos budget will increase by \$200
- Dia del Nino budget will increase by \$200
- Ice cream social budget will increase by \$100
 1. move: Denise Dekker
 2. 2nd: Anya King

Received majority vote: yes
Against: Anne Weinstein

Voted to adopt minutes:

- Move: Diana Cameron

- 2nd: Amy Liber
- Received majority vote: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

*At the September 18th, PTA meeting this item was added to clarify the minutes. This change was approved and voted on at that meeting.