

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2012

Minutes taken by PTA Secretary Holly Boime.

Members present: Drew Raine, Amy Liber, Natasha Nielsen-Porter, Carolyn Dougan Jennifer Povich, Laura Minato, Pia Nicastro, Robin Feidelson, Constance San Juan, Francesca Quagliata, Carolyn Franz, Laura Mason, Linda Macpherson, Andrea Pastor, Ann Weinstein, Denise Dekker, Angie Marsh, Karla Zirbes, Tony Moreno, Beth Grebstadt, and Claire Smith.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by PTA Treasurer Constance San Juan

There were introductions of the PTA Board Members.

Constance discusses the PTA and the activities at Atkinson that it funds such as family social events, carnival, 5th grade activities, field trips, language classes, "Shine" afterschool classes, the school library, Outdoor Learning Garden (OLG) and the new visual arts program.

Constance says that the minutes from the last PTA meeting are being circulated for review and approval. And there will be a vote to amend the standing rules as well.

Outdoor Learning Garden (OLG): Denise Dekker

- October 5th will be an all school work day.
- Tomorrow Warner Pacific students will be helping in the garden. Classroom garden reps are needed.
- There's an OLG website.

Visual Arts Program: Karla Zirbes and Francesca Quigliata

- It starts next week.
- Supplies are stored in the art room, room 121, which is a shared space.
- They're looking for volunteers to prepare material. Teachers will let you know if help is needed.

Atkinson Amigos: Anne Weinstein

- They have planned family events.
- They have speakers.
- It's in Spanish.
- It's welcoming.
- There's coffee.
- There's childcare every other Friday starting this Friday.
- There's discussion.

Script: Jennifer Povich

- It's a fundraiser where gift cards are sold.

- There'll be paperwork coming home on Friday and the orders are due the following Monday.

Question (Q): Wouldn't it make good Christmas gifts?

- There's a goal of raising \$5,000.
- Script has been presented to the teachers.
- The order form will be in paper form which will be given out this Friday.
- The script order form can also be found on the Atkinson PTA website.
- The form can also be sent out electronically with FYI.
- And you always get a blank order form when you pick up your gift cards.

Ice Cream Social

- 6-7 p.m.
- K-2 grade teachers aren't doing presentations in the classrooms.
- 3-5 grade teachers are doing presentations-check with the teachers to find out when.
- OLG table will have toppings for the gelato.

Language Classes: Robin Feidelson

- Classes have started.
- PELP, the Spanish immersion afterschool program did not get enough kids to sign up so it won't be happening.
- Hands-on-Language is an arts based program which has two classes.
- There's a Mandarin class taught by Confucius teacher Ms. Woo (last name?)
- The Vietnamese class may not happen.

Q: What's the cost of the after school Spanish class?

A: About \$550 for the whole year.

Volunteer Coordinator: Amy Liber

- Thank you to the coordinators and those that participated at community care day.
- Through Atkinson Listserve she's requesting class representatives. Her goal is to have all the class reps by the end of the ice cream social.
- She'll have a table at the ice cream social.
- Mark Mason wants to train someone to do the directory so that person can do it after this year.
- For the auction have two volunteers Natasha Nielsen-Porter and Pia Nicastro.
- Natasha agreed to be the fundraising chair.
- Asking for a volunteer to change the posters in the hall; Amy can't do it anymore.
- Amy wants everyone to watch out for graffiti and wants it to be removed quickly. Amy's found graffiti on her own property. There have been studies about how graffiti contributes to the degradation of a school and community. Rubbing alcohol and Goo-Gone (correct name?) can be used to get rid of it.

Auction Co-Chairs: Natasha and Pia

- There's a meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at Pia's house.
- Auction targeted for March.

Legislative Group: Diana Cameron

- "Atkinson Legislative Team"
- There's a rally at Grant High School at 3:30 p.m. on Friday.
- They're in support of bond measures 85 which eliminates the corporate kicker.
- They're against Measure 84 which eliminated the estate tax.
- They're done didn't activities since the group was formed last school year: letter writing campaign, UPSET rally, presence at school board meetings, Constance on the OPB special and on KBOO radio.

Q: Do you need to RSVP for the Grant Park rally?

A: No.

Q: What about the other measure about arts?

A: It's a flat tax on income of \$45. Half goes to schools and half goes to the arts? The Legislative group hasn't come out in favor of this measure because only a portion of it goes to school arts programs/funding.

Q: Are there other measures to fund pieces of school programs, i.e. P.E.?

There's going to be a workshop to education people on how to lobby. And there'll be another letter writing campaign.

Q: Are you tracking bills going on now (through legislature)?

A: Not tracking now-don't have way to do it.

PTA Budget: Treasurer Constance San Juan

- There's a budget shortfall of \$15,695.
- Fundraising using Direct Donation Drive (DDD) and script.
- "How can we make our fundraisers more successful? How can we make events more affordable?" If you have ideas then provide feedback.
- Whiteboards were installed.

Q: Was it (the purchase of whiteboards) voted on?

A: No, not in the June 2012 minutes.

Q: Why should Atkinson have to pay for whiteboards?

Discussion followed with varying points of view.

Q: Could someone (Cameron?) discuss this issue with PPS?

Q: Teachers don't have functioning chalkboards? This question was directed at the Principal.

A: Chalkboards aren't functioning and cause dust.

Whiteboard "skins" were tested in the Mrs. Holman's room. They're cheaper than regular whiteboards but not as useful/effective.

Principal says that the social studies (SS) curriculum is not provided by the school district either.

Q: What does that curriculum cost?

A: PPS starts SS curriculum starting at 6th grade. Principal knows a great SS curriculum called History Alive. There's a grades Pre-K-5 online electronic adoption for \$60-80/classroom. Teacher can use PowerPoint lessons. There's electronic versions of the textbooks and teachers can print out the material. And there are textbooks in Spanish.

Q: Anyone want to help Principal with that?

A: Ann Weinstein volunteered to help research the SS curriculum.

Voted to adopt minutes with an amendment clarification—Purchase of whiteboards was not voted on by the PTA general membership.

- Move: Amy Liber
- 2nd: Drew Raine
- Received majority: yes

Voted to amend standing rules. **Annual Dues:** Our dues are based on sliding scales for Annual Individual or Dual Memberships (2 adults); Annual Individual Membership \$3-\$15 (change to \$1-\$15) or Annual Dual Membership \$5-\$30 (change to \$2-\$30). For each of our members, a total of \$9.50 must be paid to National PTA and Oregon PTA. All dues raised above \$9.50 per person will go towards our PTA general fund and help cover membership fees for others

- Move: Francesca Quigliata
- 2nd: Karla Zirbes
- Received majority: yes

Constance is asking for input regarding the budget to be submitted 2 weeks from today.

There's no PTA President or Vice-President.

Trish Parks can be PTA President "only as a last resort."

Claire Smith has volunteered to be Treasurer. Nominations will happen at the next PTA general meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.