



Atkinson Elementary School PTA Minutes

Call to Order: General Meeting of the Atkinson PTA was held on November 19, 2013 in the cafeteria. Meeting called to order at 6:36. Meeting chaired by President Trisha Parks. Board members in attendance were Dunja Jennings Marcum, Rachel Belcher, Constance San Juan, Laura Minato, Holly Boime, Robin Feidelson. Attendance sheet attached.

Principal report: Principal Paula reported that the students are doing well, working hard. "Friday jokes"- the purpose of the jokes in the cafeteria allow a group of kids to have a presence, and connect with the student body. 4/5 field trips need equity from the immersion side. Kids are going together, instead of having separate 4th grade. Paula will cover Amy Nunn's class- and other 4th grade classes will go with their teacher. 5th grade will stay overnight, OMSI camp- and kids are getting the opportunity to spend the night away from home before they get into the 6th grade. All financial concerns will be heard- PTA is generous with financial aid, and every class has \$500. The Readathon helps with fundraising for overnight/field trips.

Conferences are coming up, and really important- a partnership between teacher, parents. Paula emphasized how important it is for parents to come prepared with questions- parents need to know how to help their child succeed. Rachel stressed that this is the time contractually to meet with parents, and to please be in that window.

Additional Reports: Susan Allen of the Site Council encouraged all to attend the Site Council meetings, 1st Monday in the month, 1:30-3pm. The council consists of Atkinson parents, a classified employee, and helps to enhance the academic achievement and wellness in the class. All are welcome to bring something to the forum; our school improvement plan (SIP) will include community members, parents, classified staff, and informal and formal sounding board. It allows for the principal to get recommendations on budgeting for the next cycle, and is a 2 yr. term.

Tom Koehler and Alma Morales Galicia provided an update on bargaining. Alma thanked the PTA for their support as the teachers are now being put on the defensive from the district. The District is asking for class size to be taken out of the contract, removing negotiating power. Work load is a vital point. Resolution for teachers available for parents to sign.

PPS Board Member Tom Koehler stated his support as well, legislature needs lobbying to get more resources. In addition- the Board's constituents are the teachers, the parents, the students, the taxpayer and all must be treated with respect for the best interest of all. Hiring process needs to be simplified, and teacher competencies/endorsements defined.

Terry Harrington, vice president of PAT from Maplewood Elementary spoke about teachers being in partial agreement with the Board, but the concern from teachers is that the district will call an impasse and hand down a contract. Trisha commented that our job

is to do our homework, we need to talk to our elected officials about what we'd like to see, and we need to do our fact checking.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of 10/15/13 Robin moves as amended (2 board members were interchanged on attendance, Board rather than general was written as type of PTA meeting). Laura seconded, approved.

Officer Reports: No fundraising report.

Fundraising- Fall Carnival did not lose money, Book Fair is doing well. Help was requested for the Lunar New Year, as every year varies slightly according to what volunteers bring to the event planning. Winter Sing Along on 12/17 would include maximum of 30 minutes of singing, schedule conflict with first concert at Mt. Tabor Middle School, band, but the music teacher had a paid gig scheduled for 12/19. Sing Along needs to be re-created as a community event, including our Mt. Tabor and Franklin families.

New Business: Standing rules in regards to the make-up of the board. Should there be an immersion parent elected officer on our board? Concern mentioned that if we create a board position for immersion, it's possible to create differences in the 2 programs, however board members emphasized that we are trying to create a presence for immersion, and the new position can help to bring immersion parents back to PTA meetings.

We are crossing out the OLG Board position, and a parent did speak to the OLG having input at the board meeting as we are receiving information of their activities. We need reports from all groups- including fundraising, foundations, OLG, etc.

How can we feel more inclusive, more as a body? Question raised, should we disseminate our info- have a board member attend the meetings of the other groups and share info? Holly moved, Annie seconded, motion approved for standing rules. Annie will step up and be that board member- Robin moves, Constance seconded.

Saneun Foley spoke of her desire to create a 501c3 for a program that would provide visiting interns for Spanish immersion classrooms, and raise funds for an 8th grade travel program for immersion students. The PTA would oversee the funds raised. It seems a good idea, however there are a lot of details that need to be worked out, and more discussion needs to happen with the teachers at Atkinson.

Back lot parking is becoming a safety issue that needs to be addressed, as parents are breaking parking laws and creating dangerous situations for children being let out in the lot. Dunja Marcum has offered to host a coffee date where interested parents can brainstorm about finding solutions. Since the backlot is CITY property, teachers can't be asked to help with a carline.

The Atkinson community won a \$250 Fire Up the Feet grant award! Congratulations to our community.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:36.

Signed:

Dunja Jennings Marcum, Secretary