

# Atkinson PTA Meeting Minutes

## January 19, 2010

Minutes taken by Sanquinetta Higgins.

Karla Zirbes called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and circulated the previous meeting's minutes for approval.

### Principal's Update - Chris Gutierrez

The Kindergarten roundup is on 1/26 and 2/4. Flyers have been posted around the neighborhood. Mandatory immersion meeting with lottery info is on 1/29. There has been a lot of interest in the district with the high school redesign. Looking at middle and high school immersion programs, and the programs as a whole. What is immersion, what are the plans for immersion? New entry/paneling part of solar panel roof. Water is being diverted in an aesthetically pleasing way, no leaks! Check out solar roof energy kiosk in the hallway.

### Mt Tabor Middle School Presentation

Jason Breaker, Assistant Principal and Connie McDonald, Teacher from Cedar Lodge along with Mt Tabor Middle students spoke about the school. Mt Tabor has 565 students and is a traditional middle school with grades 6, 7 & 8. Informative packet passed around about the school. Mt Tabor has a strong tradition of academic excellence and was ranked an outstanding school. This school also has a strong emphasis on healthy social, emotional and relationship growth of the adolescent. The Lodge style programs are smaller school groups within the larger school. Grade levels are arranged by lodges. Japanese immersion program is within the school. Mixed age program stays with same teacher throughout the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> years. There is a deaf/hard of hearing program. There is also a life skills/special education program. All programs at the school work together as a whole. A variety of extracurricular activities are offered to students. **Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade info night for Mt Tabor Middle.** Jason Breaker will be hosting tours for potential students in the morning and afternoon. These tours are modeled after a regular school day at Mt Tabor. The deaf/hard of hearing program is mainstreamed with Cedar Lodge. 8<sup>th</sup> grade Cedar Lodge students have an opportunity to teach other students with a teacher. Ms. McDonald remarked "What we teach can change but we teach 11-14 year olds." She mentioned the school's holistic emphasis on the whole child. Students talked about what it meant to be involved with Mt Tabor Middle School. How Cedar Lodge and the other lodges promote community minded learning and relationships. The four students were very well spoken, and talked about the many ways the school community was inclusive with all students. Hands-on activities with Outdoor School facilitate active learning. Every student mentioned how inclusive the school was and how no one was ever excluded.

### OLG Update - Denise Dekker

Earthfest is Friday. Educators from Portland Parks & Rec are teaching science/hands on gardening activities for all Atkinson students. Need people to bring side dish or help with cleanup/setup. Portland Rec. and school media will be filming. Good publicity for OLG and Atkinson school. Did not receive REC grant. Still have not heard from Lowe's - these grants are for the stories of place project. The next meeting is February 3<sup>rd</sup>. This meeting will be held to talk about a new plan, restructuring and new changes. Alicia is putting together the summer institute program with lots of environmental hands-on learning in the gardens. It will be a morning program with between 15-45 children participating. Sliding scale 4 week program. Salad gardens will be started in February, gardening workshops are also starting up.

### Events & Fundraising Update - Angie Janson

\$270 was raised from the Clever Cycle fundraiser and approximately \$600 from the Pizzacato fundraiser. February 11<sup>th</sup> Atkinson is helping with the PTA clothes closet. Every school volunteers 2 days a year. Jen Povich will be sending an email asking for volunteers. The closet is at Marshall High School. Lunar New Year will be on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Contact Nikki Schulak or Janet Cowall to volunteer. The auction is March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Financial Update - Laura Mason**

**PTA owes district \$2579.55 for last year's FTE**, we recv bill in Dec of this year. 10+ min of discussion about how this happened and about paying it or asking for more info. PPS foundation says it was because of insurance being higher than they thought. The vote to amend the budget and pay the bill was motioned by Karla Martin and was seconded, **passed**. Regular balance of budget does not reflect actual balance.

### **Executive Committee Update - Karla Zirbes**

Website has been kept current w/contacts & events. Forms have been translated into Spanish. Need 3 people for nominating committee. This committee: recruits people for open key PTA positions, reports back to the Board by April, and is a small time commitment. Please contact Karla with questions or if interested.

**Reviewed & voted to include Mission Statement in Standing Rules** and use for checking funding & actions. Laura Mason made motion, Sanquinetta Higgins seconded. **Passed**.

SR2S Smart Tips Brochure was mailed out mid-January to 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade families. We receive \$5 per form returned. This is a mailer of free resources and tips for families. Need to put info about this in FYI [done]. Look for this brochure and return.

### **Ballot Measures 66 & 67 Presentation - Ben Cannon**

Get your ballots in on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Oregon PTA supports yes votes on measures 66 & 67! It means so much for schools and is important for change further down the road, including balancing the budget. Because of the recession, income tax as a source of funding has plummeted. We need to increase funding for vital programs. Many state jobs have been cut, as well as DEQ (environmental regulation) and state park funding. Federal stimulus money has already run out. Bills were passed by legislators, but then these measures referred those bill's outcomes to voters by petition. Measures target tax increase for incomes greater than \$250,000 and individuals over \$125,000. Corporate business taxes would increase from \$10 to \$150. If this measure fails, there will be immediate consequences to schools & children. 50-60% of the hit will be to schools. One outcome would be a shorter school year, cutting 14 days over 2 years. Health care and public safety would also be affected. Volunteering needs are: phone banking (people need to be reminded to vote) and canvassing from now to the 26<sup>th</sup>. *Thank you Ben Cannon!*

### **Additional Quick Announcements**

Need to start procuring donations for auction. Need volunteers for day of auction. 2<sup>nd</sup> RIF (Reading is Fundamental) distribution for students is February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Laura Mason made motion to approve circulated minutes from Nov & Oct meetings, Anne Mythru seconded and vote was passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.