

Atkinson PTA Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2010

Minutes: Sanquinetta Higgins

Attending: Karla Zirbes, Anne Myrthue, Sanquinetta Higgins, Laura Mason, Holly Boime, Rahel Belcher, Traci Fajardo, Nikki Schulak, Diane Jacobs, Janet Cowal, Beth Gebstadt, Molly Haynes, Sean Connolly, Tim Nakayama

Meeting called to order at 6:44 PM by Karla Zirbes. April's meeting minutes were circulated for approval.

Principal's Update

Chris Gutierrez

Chris has been working with Debbie on Mondays for a smooth transition. There needs to be work done on the locations of rooms for next year. We are losing some staff due to enrollment issues. Thursday is the volunteer tea. Thank you PTA for teacher appreciation week, they felt very special. Very latest counts are 3 new students, however this number could change over the summer, before next school year. Patience is requested, and would like changes to be just once. This information is also being collaborated on with Debbie. Volunteer workspace room possibly located toward big coffee machine. There will be a new volunteer workspace, to be determined. We will be trying to have centers/workspace instead of moving carts/space. Certain grades will have a larger class size. Average for Oregon 1st grade through 5th grade is 24-26 students. Immersion is 28 students. District says 460 students will be here next year, 17 teachers. There are 490 students at Atkinson this year. We will be losing an immersion class of 30 students. Because of this loss, we will also lose 2 teachers and 1 through loss of immersion class.

Check back of agenda for PTA positions available.

Fundraising Update

Karla for Angie Janson

Don't forget the Pastini fundraiser-50% of net. May 24th and 25th, all day, lunch and dinner. Pastini is at 20th and Division.

Passed around the list of coordinators for next year, list incomplete, asked people to write name and note next to anything they'd like more info about.

Outdoor Learning Garden

Denise Dekker

Before late opening there will be weeding in the OLG at 8:30 AM. Documentary filmmaker is coming in and working with language classes and Chris. Bob Gliner www.docmakeronline.com working on a film about innovative schools, featuring Atkinson as well as Sunnyside and other local schools and their music, culture and gardens. Legacy gardens are being planted and salad gardens are being harvested. Susan Cowell is involved with standardizing garden curriculum through PPS. Many schools

look up to Atkinson as gardening role model as many other school gardens are much smaller. Working on getting salad ingredients from the garden for lunches each Friday. Continue to work on grants. Working on getting word out about Outdoor Learning Garden Summer Institute (OLGSI). Scholarship fund is available. Denise has checked with Abernathy, working with district, PPS and 4-H.

OLG will work on getting the picnic tables for the garden [update: done! The three tables are made locally from locally-milled lumber and are beautiful!]

Stories of Place update - Diane Jacobs

Diane did a great job with the OLG bulletin board. Check it out! Phase 1 & 2 of the PLACE project plant to start school year Fall 2010-2012. At OLGSI there will be work done on the fish, and tiles will be made with kids. Did not get Lowe's grant but will reapply for RACK grant and PTA grant. Going after US Fish & Wildlife for another grant. Contact Sean with ideas for funding sources.

Art & Science Fair/Talent Show.

The board had the idea of alternating the art & science fair and talent show every other year. Nikki Schulak felt this was not a good idea. The children really get a lot out of the talent show and with good volunteer help, both could function well. There would need to be coordinators for all three, plus teacher sponsor. Art teacher sponsor. Nikki mentioned a art/science fair brochure for back to school night as well as a possible art/science demonstration to generate interest and energy. Cindy Dulcich said it the art & science fair could be voluntary to take pressure off teachers. PTA and US Fish & Wildlife could overlap the fair. There is difficulty filling volunteer positions but perhaps things with low energy could be purged and new projects/positions could begin. It was decided that both talent & art & science shows/fairs will happen. Try for late May.

Traversing wall to be up June 2nd. [Company moved date to July, now installed!] Need people to help unload the truck. Contact Karla Zirbes. She will contact us with information on time of truck unloading.

Vote on officers for next year: Karla Zirbes, president; Anne Myrthue, VP; Laura Mason, treasurer [has since declined the position]; secretary, open. Denise Dekker motioned, and Sanquinetta Higgins seconded on slate of PTA officers. Voted, **PASSED**.

Proposed Budget

Laura Mason. Please see attached proposed budget for next yr. Anne Myrthue motioned to vote on budget and another vote will happen in the fall. Seconded. **Voted, PASSED**. Anne Myrthue motioned to pass last meeting's minutes. **PASSED**.

April meeting minutes

Circulated and voted to approve.

Meeting adjourned