

Atkinson PTA Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2010

Signed attendance: Karla Zirbes, Mike Merrill, Merry-Lynn Amsbury, Gail Calcagno, Sam Dougan, Carolyn Dougan, Winona McGann, Kelly Flowers, Chad Howl, Heather Parks-Huntrom, Lydia Poole, Constance San Juan, Nikki Schulak, Jennifer M. Pultz, Kim Heron, Linly Rees, David Rees, Amnity B, Jremy Adams, Andrea Pastor, Francesca Quagliata, Jocelyn Pratt, Elizabeth Connolly, Robert Robertson, Lisa Gregory, Sacha Reich, Kim Davis, John Ost, Rebecca Torres-Wilhelm, Stacey Snover, Traci Fajardo, Wendy Lukens, Anne Myrthue, Alessandra Rullgger, Jill Inglis, Dana Dickman, Julie Hestings, Kristen Pilgrim, Selgei Schmidt, April LaCombe, Roberto O, Traci Sullivan, Denise Coogan, Diane Jacobs, Sean Connelly, TJ Crockett, Henrich Kreeaker, Wendy Miller, Gretchen Dursch, Pete Morones, Beth Gebstadt, Corry Trombley, Laura Mason, Stacy Larsen.

Minutes taken by Wendy Miller.

Karla Zirbes called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

Update - Karla Zirbes

Q & A meeting minutes avail very soon.

Review & vote in Standing Rules, incl. membership dues. Standing Rules voted in.

Plaque dedication

Maria Everhart, Atkinson parent. Traversing wall dedication: "Brad's Wall". Traversing wall now installed in the gym, PTA gifted to Atkinson, dedicated to parent Brad Buchanan who passed away last year.

New PTA Member Positions /Vote in

During intro, parent said that his wife had asked about the treasurer position, was steered towards another position, and didn't feel welcome. Karla said the parent had contacted her, and she did suggest another position since someone had stepped up for treasurer, but said she could look into a run off election if parent was interested, parent had declined and Karla thought everyone was happy, but apologized for any confusion and for not feeling welcome as that was not the intent.

Constance San Juan – voted in as Treasurer.

Wendy Miller – voted in as Secretary.

All in favor, no one opposed.

OLG Update - Denise Dekker

Denise Dekker introduced herself as the Chair of the Outdoor Learning Garden Program (OLG). She gave the following overview of the OLG program: Last year legacy gardens were planted by the outgoing 5th grade classes, the gardens are now ready for harvest. Goal is to offer OLG harvest in the cafeteria every Friday – this is a work in process. Students will be harvest heirloom tomatoes to be served in the school cafeteria.

Multicultural Garden update: Last January Portland Parks and Recreation provided educational sessions to all Atkinson students. Plans are being made to celebrate the gardens and diversity of the school. The OLG committee meets monthly, e-mail Denise to volunteer. Sean Connolly arranged new stump seating area in the school courtyard; he also provided all of the labor to deliver and arrange the wood seating. OLG Summer Institute (camp offered to students during summer break) was a huge success and plans are in the works for OLG Summer Institute 2011. Garden Representatives are needed in the classrooms; please sign up if you are interested. Training workshops for new garden reps. will be offered in October. Atkinson is now designated a 4H school. The OLG information kiosk was moved to the front of the school on Division Street to be more

visible to the community. OLG has it's own website olg.atkinsonelementarypta.org and e-mail address atkinsongardens@gmail.com.

Diane Jacobs – Artist, outdoor classroom

Update: Phase I inside will be done this year. Phase II includes a tree made of clay to be located on the outside wall of the outdoor classroom, designs for this are posted on the bulletin board. Artwork will include animals from our region. Looking for volunteers to work in class with kids. This weekend, looking for a few volunteers to stucco an outside wall.

Sean Connolly – outdoor classroom pollinator leader

Update: Volunteers needed, talk to Sean about a sign-up sheet. This year we are selling Chinook books for \$15.00, they will be available in the front office and volunteers are needed to sell them before and after school.

Jennifer Povich – events coordinator

October 1 is picture day. October 6 is National walk or bike to school day. October 20 is grandparent's day. Positions to fill: 5th grade parent coordinators, someone to organize running club, class reps, and fundraising chair. Jennifer is organizing eat out nights to benefit Atkinson, hopefully on a monthly basis.

Language Committee Update –

David and Linly Rees have stepped in to co-chair the newly formed language committee. Goal is to bring back neighborhood language program. Committee is looking for members, including immersion parents. Currently the committee is assessing existing resources. A sign up sheet is being circulated; please join if you can offer some time.

Principal's State of the School Presentation – Debbie Armendariz

PowerPoint presentation.

Last year Atkinson did not meet federal AYP, we fell low in special education participation– one more special education student needed to take test to have met the requirement. We are on track to meet the requirement this year.

Teachers to write school improvement plan (SIP). Draft will be on web for two weeks for comment.

TAG tests for students begin in 2nd grade. Each teacher administers TAG program for her classroom.

Teachers will be reading excerpts from Every Day Anti-Racism and Teach Like a Champion

Debbie Armendariz would like to create a monthly newsletter. Some of the information might be what teachers did during the 2 hour late opening day, book reviews, parent information.

Debbie Armendariz main focus of the school will be to close achievement gap

Last year the PTA organized training workshops for parents to help their children in math. The PTA can look at providing these workshops for 2010-2011 school year. *Update: Debbie is looking at providing these with Parent Involvement Funds through Title I.*

Additional Quick Announcements

Café au Play across the street is open for business.

Voted to accept last May's meeting minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.