

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Meeting Minutes
Sept. 20, 2011

Minutes taken by PTA Secretary Holly Boime.

Members present: Constance San Juan, Darcy Wilde, Terrie Henderson, Sarah Statham, Drew Raine, Denise Dekker, Anya King, Tony Morano, Anne Myrthue, Kirsten Jacobson Croak, Laura Mason, Fernando Rodriguez, Dunja Jennings, Teresa Minato, David Coate, Molly Haynes, Laura O'Hearn,, Francesca Quagliata, Andrea Pastor, Holly Boime, Wendy Miller, and Jennifer Povich.

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. by PTA President Suzanne Harold.

Executive Committee updates: PTA Suzanne Harold

Welcome and introduced PTA board members and circulated June PTA meeting minutes for review and approval. Presented potential changes and reviewed some of Atkinson Elementary PTA standing rules.

Vote for changes to standing rules: 1st motion: Constance San Juan
Received majority vote: yes

Principal's Update: Principal Debbie Armendariz

Requested funding from PTA for half of the \$2,000 expense for Playworks training. The other half will come from the Principal's discretionary spending budget allocated from the PTA. About twelve recess staff will attend the training. Up to 35 staff and volunteers can be trained. Discussed the Playworks program and training. Someone asked if additional funding may be needed next year. Training for new recess supervision may be needed. Kirsten Croak asked if children must participate in the structured Playworks activities at recess. The principal answered by saying that participation in the Playworks program is voluntary.

Outdoor Learning Garden (OLG) Update: Chairperson Denise Dekker

- Reviewed OLG programs.
- Encouraged harvesting of legacy garden now.
- Stories of Place project—Resident Artist and Atkinson parent Diane Jacobs, celebration November 4th
- Volunteers not just needed for working in the garden but also for helping with press releases, posters, etc.
- Compost was rebuilt.
- Garden helper Brooklyn no longer working with OLG; she got a full-time job. Alicia will now be working 10/hr week.
- There will be an effort to grow food in the OLG for the Atkinson cafeteria.

Card committee update: Meredith Baker

- Said that a professional photographer came and took pictures of the Stories of Place tiles from which images may be used for cards, t-shirts, shopping bags, etc. She welcomes any help in design or marketing. If you are interested in helping out then you can contact her at Meredith@fahertybookscom or 503-888-7514.

Spanish Language Immersion Liaison: Laura O’Hearn

- Invited people to join the “Atkinson Amigos,” a parent group that meets every Friday morning in the cafeteria at about 9 a.m. Most of the discussion is in Spanish; however Laura provides PTA updates in English.
- A Spanish language translator is needed in the school office 1x/week from 8:45-9:15 a.m.
- Volunteers are needed to help maintain school grounds.

Calendar of Events for School Year: PTA President Suzanne Harold

- Reviewed the events on the Atkinson Calendar at a Glance.
- Reminded everyone about the Back-to-School event on Thursday, Sept. 22 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Some teachers in the lower grades have opted to open up their classrooms at 6 p.m.
- Costume exchange-new this year. Will collect donated/used costumes in a box in school lobby.

Update on After-school activities this year

“Shine” program update: Kirsten Jacobson-Croak

- Starts Oct. 6 and lasts for 6 weeks on Thursdays from 3-4:15 p.m. and cost is \$30/class/six weeks.
- Creative nature class with Brooklyn
- Science and art instructors with classes such as cartooning, stop motion animation.
- Football in the fall. Different sport for the next session.
- Class choices will vary from session to session.
- Sign up from come out on Friday, Sept 23rd. If you need a scholarship please write that on the form.

Chess for Success Update:

- Is a free program in Title I schools.
- Need a Portland Public Schools (PPS) employee to lead program at Atkinson—we may have someone.
- The coordinator/leader will get paid.
- There’s a curriculum.

After School Language Program

Mandarin instruction:

- Neighborhood program K-2 grades 2x/week for 30 minutes during the school day.

- 3-5 grades Tu/Th or M/W afterschool, sign up forms out Friday and due Sept 28.
- Can Spanish immersion kids participate in afterschool Mandarin?

Spanish instruction:

- K-5 grades Tu/Th or M/W afterschool from 3-4:30 p.m.
- 1st session is fall through early February \$200/child.

Vietnamese instruction:

- K-5 grades 2x/week afterschool.

Programs will start October 3. Robin Fiedelson is coordinating the afterschool language programs.

Financial Update: Constance San Juan

- Reported on afterschool language program
- Vote for Playworks funding of \$1,0000: 1st motion: Molly Haynes
Received majority vote: yes
- Discussed Year end financial report.
- Vote to amend minutes from December 2010 PTA general meeting to reflect the vote to provide \$3,500 for language support: 1st motion: Denise Dekker
Received majority vote: yes
- Discussed budget report for last three months.
- Encouraged anyone, i.e. relatives, community members, to join PTA.
- Vote for approve Year-End Report: 1st motion: Laura O'Hearn
Received majority vote: yes

Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Povich

Discussed volunteering at Atkinson.

Vote to approve June 2011 meeting minutes: 1st motion: Meredith Baker
Received majority vote: yes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.