

# Atkinson PTA Meeting Minutes

## October 19, 2010

Minutes taken by Wendy Miller.

Signed attendance: Karla Zirbes, Lydia Poole, Gretchen Dursch, Elizabeth Connolly, Jennifer Povich, Francesca Qajuana, Laura Mason, Constance San Juan, David Rees, Wendy Miller, Linly Rees, Denise Dekker, Carolyn Dougan, Rebecca Torres-Wilhelm, Fraci Fajardo, Diane Jacobs, Sergi Schmidt, Sean Connolly, Anne Myrthue, Beth Gebstadt, Guy Trombleu, Meg Ruby, Sacha Reich, Anya King, Amy Lieber.

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

### **Update – Principal Debbie**

Staff development, Writing focus, Slide show of student writing samples from all grades

Safety – Staff safety committee is addressing concerns

School Works newsletter came out today, went home with students

Technology – Atkinson is not known for this. There are left over funds from last year so overhead (elmo) projectors were ordered for every classroom. These will help teachers by showing live streaming from laptop. Not all teachers have laptops – only team leaders have.

Building leadership team, area we are lagging behind. Instructional technology funds used were title 1 funds left over from last year, with a limited time to use. Refresh funds allocated from district. We can only buy what is approved and supported by district IT.

Effort to go paperless: Staff using Google calendar and Google docs, linking calendar with school website. School events, field trips and CUB civic use of building (show if space is being used).

Wifi? – not yet, working on it. We should have it soon, announce in FYI when it is up.

School improvement plan – Due end of June, met today, next central office to review, then it will be posted on the website.

TAG Plan (talented and gifted) – Started. When done it will be on the website. Plan is focusing on characteristics, teachers use observation procedures. Will be used on 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students. Process for reviewing student needs, look at special needs children (student study team) looking for ways to find under achieving student. Test has patterns (non-verbal). TAG parent meeting group at Franklin on Thursday 6:00-7:30 pm. Neighborhood and immersion historically not equal.

### **Visual Arts Curriculum for Atkinson - Francesca**

Francesca is a parent at Atkinson and she is exploring ways to bring visual arts to Atkinson students, up to two times per month in every class per agreement w/Debbie. This program would be volunteer run – with proper training. It would be structured and teach children art history, color technique. Action items: need to create funding, need grant writers, put on yahoo site, put note in FYI, create long term vision. Look at what other schools have Abernathy, Duniway and Glencoe (art cart may be starting point).

### **Update – Karla Zirbes**

Q & A meeting min. posted on Atkinson website, under minutes. State of the School also posted on bulletin board.

Drum group has been cut. Two PTA people are talking w/Kim & Debbie about possible ways to continue drum group. Updates to follow.

### **OLG Update - Denise Dekker**

Volunteer run. Attending tonight's PTA meeting are OLG volunteers Meg Ruby, Diane Jacobs, Sean Connolly. Each class has a garden representative (ideally 2 per class). Denise Dekker is OLG Chair. Need translation helper for new signage. Warner Pacific came and cleaned out beds. OLG website is

being updated by Karla Zirbes. Fall and winter crops are communal this year. Committee is working on standardizing OLG curriculum. Researching worm bins. Considering bees. Offering workshops for parents about seed saving. Ask teachers what you can do to help support curriculum. OLG is involved with three installations of artwork. Update on Place project: Submitting grant. Looking for community to come in and help. We need new volunteers. Big roles need to be filled. Kids are working on tiles for place project, fish and birds are done. 45 or so animals have been identified as important for people to know. Will put notice in FYI and newsletter about grant. New one coming out in November. We were awarded East Multnomah County grant for signage. This Saturday welcome rain workshop here. Submitted grant to Lowes for education grant. Chinook book – 25% of goal met so far, we should have some out for grandparents day to sell.

### **Events Update – Jennifer Povich**

Tomorrow, October 20 is Grandparents / Special Friends Day.

Book Fair will be the end of November, week before & during conferences.

Positions to fill: Fundraising chair and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent coordinators needed for end of year party and field trip.

Science & Art Fair – Niki is looking for volunteers.

Jennifer is organizing eat out nights to benefit Atkinson, hopefully on a monthly basis.

Escript website – stores like Safeway or QFC; you can register your credit/debit card and earn money for Atkinson. Directions located on PTA website.

Hope to get running club back – looking for volunteers. *Update: Running Club is back!*

### **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. Conclusions are: every child to get language, have cultural events. Preserve relationship to immersion. Establish future proficiency for students. Committee is trying to figure out how to do this. Short-term goal: opportunity for language exposure before/after school. Work with OLG and visual arts plan to integrate whole school. Establish permanent and sustainable program; heritage language instruction. We need to check out what other schools are doing: Bridger, Abernathy. Can someone at PPS help? Wendy Miller personally thinks it is the least principal Debbie can do is find a contact at PPS. Maybe we can do some sort of trading services with other neighborhood schools?

### **Budget Update – Constance San Juan**

Constance presented this year's budget, reviewed changes from last year.

OLG to meet with Constance later about OLG particulars. District is now paying for background checks.

Childcare for PTA meetings has increased. Move 5<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser back to "other" category.

Move to approve budget – Linly Rees, Julie Hastings second motion. Unanimous pass.

### **New Business**

Parent Amy brought up problem of bullying at school. Zero tolerance for bullying, Atkinson should be a safe place for kids. Personal note from Wendy Miller: Aftercare at Atkinson has bullying too. Principal Debbie will address in next school works newsletter. Need to establish language to be used and make sure staff & parents are saying the same things. **Reporting is not tattling, if it is a safety issue notify principal ASAP.** Look at having a statement or painted sign posted. Chris has non-violent training? Full time counselor wanted in future, check back in about this.

Vote on Past minutes: Linly move, Denise second, minutes passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.