

PTA minutes: November 13, 2007

To be approved at Dec meeting

In Attendance: C. Hayes-Lattin, R. Boime, T. Vawter, A. Storrs, L. Mason, C. Gutierrez, A. Keny-Guyer, P. Acevedo, A. Janson, J. Laden, A. Ruegger, I. Nguyen, B. Thielman, A. Cross, C. Ramirez, G. Golfarb, S. Campbell, K. Martin, R & G. Tucker, E. Flores, J. Cowal, J. Hansen.

Introductions: Interactive introduction activity to meet new people. People were asked to share their likes and concerns for Atkinson:

Likes	Issues
Multiple Cultures Diversity Excellent Reading Instruction Committed parents The school is “Real” Parent involvement directly in the classrooms Language Instruction for all	High expectations of very young children Daily pace is rushed Math Instruction lags behind reading Needs more support Class size is too large Not enough diversity in parent involvement Taking away recess as a “punishment” Move Division (as in the street, ha ha) Childhood Obesity

Safer Routes to School:

Our “Safer Routes to School” representative came. Every Friday is walk/bike to school today. We just received maps from the district that put the school in the center and maps out 1 mile. If you have traffic related issues, please contact Lore Wintergreen: 503-823-2304 or lore.wintergreen@trans.ci.portland.us.

Outreach Committee (to engage Latino, Asian and other ethnic groups at Atkinson):

- Chris G. announced that the headsets will take a while (unknown) due to the districts procedures for purchasing. (The process is called, “putting out to bid.”)
- Sandy said the committee has identified 3 priorities of the group. There is a handout that describes their work. In sum, these priorities are 1) ways to involve the Asian parent community 2) covered roof for outdoor playground 3) cultural events.
- Posada: There will be a planning meeting for the Posada at Silvia’s house on Nov. 16th (directions are in the handout from that committee). The Posada will be on December 21st in the evening.

Wellness Committee:

Carmen read the national chapter of Stand for Children announcement about the fitness and health of children. We were given a survey to identify our wellness needs from Stand for Children. The priorities identified: covered playground; food policy;

increase physical activity (equipment); increase time “in nature.” Committee meeting: First Monday of the month at 3:45 in room 122.

Covered Playground:

We discussed whether to design and fundraise for a new covered playground area. After years of support for this idea among parents and teachers, the PTA decided to move ahead with this big project. As part of the new Covered Playground Committee (CPC) tasks, Karla Martin and Gabriela Goldfarb met with the PPS planner to begin to solidify the requirements/suggestions of the district. They will oversee site and design issues, while Jim Laden will oversee fundraising. If interested in joining the siting and design committee, contact Karla (karlamsuccess@comcast.net) or Gabriella (taborhood@comcast.net). The next meeting will be announced in the FYI.

Business:

- The October minutes were approved.
- The audit was approved. (Great job Jim).

Principal’s Announcements:

-PPS principals recently received some training that encouraged them to be more visible in the building (getting in the classrooms etc.). That means that others will be doing more of the “behind the scenes” work (i.e. Pat may respond to some of your letters; Rob Stewart is doing more of the discipline).

- Chris was asked how the superintendent is doing. He had positive comments. (He has the unique perspective of being the PAPS president).

- Recess cannot be taken away as a discipline tool, as per a new state rule – he will remind/inform teachers.
- Discipline strategies can be shared with parents. We might put together a forum to share these and clarify strategies.

Recess:

Betse Thielman has been working with Ms Winters on the topics of exclusion and relational aggression. They are working on involving parents with the peer mediating group to encourage disengaged children into positive games on the playground. If interested, meet Betse at 11:30 on Wednesday on the playground. She might organize a Saturday training too if there is enough interest.

Fundraising Report:

- This year the **gift wrap** sale raised half of the funds because of the change in the fundraising model. We will have a meeting to rethink the changes.
- Covered playground: This will cost more than \$100,000. How will we raise this money? Jim listed all of our fundraisers and what they have made previously:
 - o Auction: 30K
 - o Gift Wrap: 5K (this year, down from approx \$10K last year)
 - o Chinook Book: 2K (OLG receives funds)
 - o Carnival: 3K

- Direct Donations: 3K
 - Grants: (\$15K from Oregon Community Foundation for playground several years ago; \$5K for translation headsets this year; we plan to apply for more for covered playground.)
- We committed 40K last year from our general fundraisers – we need to figure out how to increase this amount. Ideas: parent dinner, kicker give-backs, matching grants, direct donation requests with informative letter, money jars, “bricks for all.” If seeking funds, we could have a “spin” that reflects our cultures and may open up more grant options (i.e., – green, art etc). The group decided send an informative letter home to all families which includes a direct plea for the project, in time for when people receive their kicker refunds (early Dec.). A Covered Playground fundraising committee will work on the details. If interested in helping, contact: or Jim Laden at 503/235-9889, j_laden@yahoo.com.

Escrip: A form was passed out to encourage registration of credit cards with escrip to raise funds for the PTA. Fill out and put in PTA box in the school office.

Mt Tabor Park public involvement process: Nov 28th deadline.

The public process to update the Master Plan for Mt. Tabor Park sets a new tone for how community and City work together. A steering group will create a long-range vision for the Central Maintenance Yard, Nursery, and Long Block. The steering group will include representatives from the Joint Committee (a volunteer body which developed the community involvement plan), impacted property owners, Parks staff at the Mt. Tabor Park Yard, other impacted Parks staff, and members of the broader community. The Joint Committee is currently looking for interested parties who bring additional expertise. The Master Plan Update will begin in January 2008, with completion of design, costs and timeline by January 2009. Interest forms are available at www.PortlandParks.org, click on *projects/Mt. Tabor*. Deadline to complete forms is 5:00 PM November 28th. For more information on the steering group, Mt. Tabor Master Plan Update, or to receive a hard copy of the interest form, contact Community Engagement Manager Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong at elizabeth.kennedy-wong@ci.portland.or.us or 503-823-5113.

Reshaping Schools: There was public meeting to discuss how to reshape schools for the 21st century. January 23rd will be the meeting focusing on the SE quadrant at (7-9 pm) Franklin High School (check the FYI closer to the date).

Art Partners: A tri county effort to create some pilot programs to encourage Art education. See Anne Storrs.

Lock-ins/security: Classrooms need “safety sacks.” Parents want some education about this. More to come.