

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) General Meeting Minutes  
May 21, 2013

Minutes taken by PTA Secretary Holly Boime.

Members present at the meeting in the school library: Amy Liber, Fernando Rodriguez, Linda Macpherson, Claire Smith, Constance San Juan, Trisha Parks, Holly Boime, Pia Nicastro, Laura Mason, Teresa (last name?)

At 6:35 p.m. PTA President Amy Liber led the presentation of the plaque for Brad's wall in the gym in honor of an Atkinson volunteer, Brad (last name?) who died. Brad's wall is the climbing wall in the school gym. Several people spoke about Brad stating he was a Teamplayer coach for K-2 and volunteered on school field trips and at the school carnival. Heidi (last name?) read the plaque. Other comments about Brad included, "Brad was a pretty amazing and an amazing volunteer. He was "fun to talk to..."one of the kids himself," and," rode his bike to get here...." Pictures were taken.

At 6:50 p.m. Robi Osborn, the Principal of Mt Tabor Middle School came to talk in the school library.

**Robi Osborn: Mt. Tabor Middle School Principal**

- First year at Mt. Tabor Middle School.
- She taught middle school for 10 years.
- Ways to get ready for middle school include over the summer include: play, family time, knowing times, multiplication tables, reading for pleasure and keeping a journal.
- Encourages parents to set parental controls on social media, for example cell phone only from 4-8 p.m.
- Every student gets a planner.
- Every Wednesday there's ½ hour dedicated to building a safe and inclusive environment. Anti-bullying and social skills are taught/discussed.
- Lunch/recess is together ½ hour/day.
- ½ hour of advising every day.
- For 6<sup>th</sup> graders on the first day of school half of the day is spent on showing who the adults are in the building with a longer recess and a shortened schedule in the afternoon.
- Students won't get their schedules until the end of August.
- Also on the first day of school there'll be a coffee for parents and a welcome packet.
- Language Arts and Social Studies are blocked together.

Q: Do you use the Ed model(?)?

A: Classes are mostly organized by grade.

Q: How many students in a class?

A: 26-33 students in the core classes.

Q: What is the school policy about cell phones?

A: Can't use cell phones during school hours. Students sign a form. Some kids turn phones into the office so they're not tempted to use them.

- At 9:15 a.m. the tardy bell rings. At 3:45 p.m. school gets out. At 9 a.m. students can get in the school.

Q: How does Spanish immersion work?

A: Only two classes (Social studies and the Spanish language class) are Spanish immersion classes.

Q: What about sports?

A: There are Parks and Rec programs such as basketball. And there's the Sun School Program, Girl's Inc., classes such as model airplanes and there's also a Deaf and Hard of hearing program. This program has its own classroom and the students can be mainstreamed.

Q: And what about the music program and Kim Heron?

A: There are 100 kids marching in parades.

- Encourages participation in PTA and Site Council at Mt. Tabor Middle School. Next Year the focus will be on family engagement.

Q: Is there a foundation? And if so how's it doing?

A: Yes, it pays for a.m. supervision at 8 am with the library and both gyms open for a cost of about \$7,000.

Mt. Tabor has a September auction. No one has stepped up to run it yet.

Q: Does the PTA fundraise?

A: Minimally w/Scrip. Field trips are paid for by a combination of PTA contributions and school funding.

They go on day trips. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade they go to the Bonneville Dam and in 8<sup>th</sup> grade they go to Mt. St. Helens.

Q: Is there a Japanese Immersion foundation?

A: Yes, on a feeder pattern. There's a Japanese residency program.

Q: What about library?

A: There's no library class in middle school.

Q: Is there a homework club?

A: No.

Q: Are the four different programs at the school (Spanish immersion, Japanese immersion, neighborhood, and Deaf and Hard of hearing) mixed?

A: Yes, students are integrated. Some good friendships have developed.

Q: Are there different levels of math taught?

A: Not in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. But then kids are tested for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math. She loves the bridges math program.

#### **Nominating Committee for PTA board positions**

- Thanks to Pia, Linda and Carissa.
- Nominating Trisha Parks for President.
- Looking for Dads.
- Nominating Constance San Juan for Treasurer. She's been the Treasurer for three years and does the Spanish translation for the FYI.
- Nominating Dunja Jennings for Secretary. She's not a PTA member but her election could be contingent on her becoming a member.
- Any nominations from the floor? No response.
- Vote to elect Dunja Jennings for Secretary contingent on her becoming a PTA member by June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 1<sup>st</sup> motion: Pia Niacaastro
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Linda Macpherson
  - Received majority vote: yes -9 votes
  - Opposed? None
  
- Vote to reelect Constance San Juan for Treasurer
  - 1<sup>st</sup> motion: Trisha Parks
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Karla Zirbes
  - Received majority vote: yes-11 votes
  - Opposed? 1 (Constance -ha!)
  
- Vote to elect Trisha Parks for President
  - 1<sup>st</sup> motion: Linda Macpherson
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Laura Mason

Received majority vote: yes  
Opposed? No

- Any vice president nominations?

Some thank you cards for staff appreciation week from Ms. Holman are circulated.

#### **Karla Zirbes: Motion and vote to amend board position revision**

- Any questions?
- Adding a Program Chair-thus splitting up the Volunteer Chair duties/position.
- Vote to amend board position revision:  
1<sup>st</sup> motion: Trisha Parks  
2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Holly Boime  
Received majority vote: yes-11 votes

#### **Treasurer report: Constance San Juan**

- Pizzicato eats out --\$670
- Plant sale--\$507
- Auction netted \$30,879
- You can register kids for the language program for fall classes now. There was an enrollment problem this past year. For grades K-2 there were 9 students—want 15. For grades 3-5 there were 10 kids-want 15. There were few students on free and reduced fee enrollment rate. Want to offer afterschool language classes 2X/week. There will be a Confucius scholar next year. And the configuration of the Spanish language classes will change next year. It will be divided by K/1 grades and 2-5 grades. There will be a Hands On summer camp at Tabor Space.
- More volunteers are needed for the school carnival or it will be canceled.

#### **Trisha Parks: PTA survey**

- There will be a 9 question survey about the PTA translated into Spanish, on-line and in hard/paper copies.

The PTA membership voted to adopt the April 2013 PTA meeting minutes.

1<sup>st</sup> motion: Amy Liber  
2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Constance San Juan  
Received majority vote: yes

#### **Outdoor Learning Garden (OLG): Claire Smith**

- There's a lot of history with the school and the OLG is the cornerstone of our school.
- Want to integrate it into the curriculum.
- Alyssa is a master gardener and gets paid for 10 hours/ week (but actually works a lot more than that) and gets paid \$3 less per hour than other similar programs.
- There's been discussion with Principal Debbie about having a teacher OLG orientation and OLG all school curriculum.

- And the OLG volunteers will be submitting a funding request for an OLG coordinator paid position. They hope to have Alyssa work more paid hours and serve as an OLG instructor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.