

Washington School PTO Minutes

April 4, 2011

Call to Order: by Patty Kelly 6:30 at Washington School

Board Members in attendance: Patty Kelly, Amie Keeton, Courtney Turnbull, Diane and Danny Uhls, Angie Baker

Attendees: Dr. Barry Reilly, Gerri Whitcomb, Lori Stevens, Lori Dadekian, Christa Hoder, Marsha Veninga, Teresa and John Fish, Kristen Ayers, Scott Stanley, Julie Hiles, Gregory Braswell, Rhonda Kasper, Deborah Halperin, Mary Clugston, Elizabeth Guzalo.

Teachers: Mrs. Mathy, Ms. Killian

Principal: Jeff Lockenvitz

Presentation by Dr. Barry Reilly, District 87 Superintendent

Dr. Reilly reported District 87 finances are in good shape. There is no plan to make budget cuts or reduce staff. In response to a rumor, Dr. Reilly stated they are not redistricting schools. They are considering the possibility of purchasing the property next to Washington School. If purchased, this space could be used in a number of ways including additional parking.

Minutes from March meeting approved.

Board member reports:

Principal Report

Library Renovations: Money from fundraiser We.Fit.In. covered the cost of the new furniture in the library. In addition, \$3000 was used to benefit each grade level. Benefits include new classroom easels, classroom tables and chairs, field trip for 3rd grade and a mural, tables, computers to create a mini lab for 5th graders. While keeping a healthy balance in the PTO budget, Jeff emphasized the importance of using the money from fundraisers on school improvements that provide direct benefit to students and staff.

President report

Teacher thank-you notes - Patty advised teachers are always very appreciative of staff appreciation meals. She shared a thank you note received from Patty Sheets.

Kindergarten registration April 13 – Patty advised information about PTO will be available during registration. There will be sign-up sheets for parents to review opportunities to help with various PTO events.

Vice-Presidents report

Parent Express e-mail – This is currently being tested and should provide a lot of options for improved communication to parents. Amie stated the next big step will be to get parent e-mails into the system.

School supplies kits – A sample kit was available for review. The kits contain school supplies requested by the teacher for one price. They will be available for purchase for next school year.

Secretary report

No report

Treasurer report

Danny reported the current balance shown on the treasury report is \$25,268 but will be reduced to about \$9000 after library renovation cost of \$16,000 are deducted. Diane advised it is important for individuals who have Market Day orders to get their payment to the office by the deadline even if they pick the order up at a later time. Profits for next Market Day will go to special departments.

Teacher Reps

Ms. Killian asked that we tell our neighbors and friends to sign up for Kindergarten early. Mrs. Mathy advised that she and Ms. Killian will do baskets for the carnival next year too. They have 75 baskets ready so far.

Old Business

Carnival update – Mary Clugston reported flyers are out and ticket sales are this week. \$10 cost for wristband which includes popcorn, cotton candy and a beanie baby stuffed animal (rather than lots of little prizes). They have lots of volunteers set up and characters Dora, Curious George and Cat in the Hat will be attending. Two bouncy houses, one for kindergarten-2nd grade kids and one for 3rd-5th grade, will replace last year's obstacle course. Adults are needed to handle the money. Set up begins at 3:00 and volunteers are welcome. Volunteers are also needed to sell clothing at the carnival. Mrs. Mathy needs more baskets which can be dropped off outside her classroom. PTO will put together a basket for the carnival. Mrs. Mathy advised two Air Tran round trip

tickets were donated and the Thai House donated \$500. Sponsor banners are being printed and will be posted during the carnival.

New Business

Vote on slate of officers for 2011-2012- President: Amie Keeton and Courtney Turnbull
Vice President: Amanda Mateer and Stephanie Reed Treasurer: Danny and Diane Uhls
Secretary: Angie Baker

Vote – all approved proposed officers for next year’s PTO

Wolf Park Garden Committee: Kelly Mathy, Deborah Halperin, Carrie Mack – Mr. Lockenvitz and Mrs. Mathy have discussed the idea of a school garden extensively for awhile and consequently Mrs. Mathy put together a group of people to discuss all aspects of starting a school garden and the unlimited hands on learning opportunities for students . She and Deborah Halperin presented information for the Wolf Park Annual Playground Clean-up & Garden Kick-off Event on May 7, Saturday from 1-4:30pm. Deborah wrote five grants for this project which are pending. They estimate the start up costs for May kick-off would be \$2500 which includes basic materials to build fruit and vegetable beds, soil, mulch and plants. The goal is to involve all grade levels in a living classroom, provide fresh produce for kids, promote community service and civic responsibility by giving away produce to families in need and model healthful and responsible living. Motion for PTO to provide \$2500 start up cost for this project approved. Flyer on this event lists ways to participate and is circulating now.

May meeting (May 9th) - will be in two parts: 1) a report on/evaluation of the PTO activities for this year, the adjournment and 2) a meeting run by the new officers.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 by Patty Kelly