

Washington School PTO Minutes

February 7, 2011

Call to Order: by Patty Kelly 6:33 at Washington School

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

Attendees: Josh Houtzel

Teachers:

Principal: Jeff Lockenvitz

Tribute to Lori Hamilton

Lori served as PTO secretary for four years, was involved in Reading Wolves, Brownies and Chaired the 5th grade reception for years. She died February 1st, 2011 from breast cancer. In memory of this exceptional individual/friend, the PTO will make a \$100 contribution to each of her children's scholarship fund. Motion to approve by Mr. Lockenvitz and 2nd by Angie.

Consent Agenda

Minutes from November and December meeting approved. Motion to approve by Diane and 2nd by Courtney.

Board member reports:

Principal Report

Mr. Lockenvitz, on behalf of Washington School, proudly received the 2010 Excellence Award for Exemplary Academic Performance. This award recognizes that 90% of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders have met or exceeded levels on the ISAT for three consecutive years in reading and math.

Due to weather, three days snow days were used last week. Mr. Lockenvitz advised that, at this point, the last day of school (15 minutes) will be May 27th rather than May 24th. If we have addition snow days, this day will be pushed out accordingly. Snow removal was the big problem last week. A special thanks to the staff that worked during those days to remove the snow on school grounds.

President report

Reading Wolves, Junior Great Books

Patty advised this is the last week for Reading Wolves. Some of the JGB first sessions were cancelled due to weather. It was decided that leaders may reschedule the program past spring break. The PTO president will discuss/consider changes with the coordinator for JGB next year.

Newsletter changes

The deadline for changes/submissions is 1st Friday of each month. The newsletter will be released by the 2nd Friday of the month. The newsletter will be online this month and teachers were asked to notify parent when it appears online. Angie will distribute paper copies to parents who indicated they would need one (about 20 parents).

Time to recruit board members and committee chairs

According to bylaws, PTO should have a nominating committee of not less than three members. Recently, VP's have taken this responsibility. Amie advises there will be a notice in the February newsletter regarding recruitment. The board agrees that extending and inviting Diane and Danny Uhls to continue their role as treasurer would be advantageous to the PTO because of their extensive and on-going work on PTO tax issues. The issues are not yet resolved, which is why we feel Danny and Diane should stay on. The PTO does not want to change the by-laws, but we feel an exception should be made because the continuity of the current treasurers will help bring a successful conclusion to resolving the tax issues. The board gives notice that the intention is to amend the bylaws at the March meeting to provide an exception to the 2 year term for board positions. The exception will be considered because of a compelling need or circumstance regarding that position up to one more 2 year term.

Note: Patty brought to attention an online technology tool that may be useful to Washington School. From PTO Today magazine, New Parent Express E-mail Features (ptotoday.com/parentexpress) is a free service that enhances communication between school/teachers and parents. Review for web site for further comment.

Vice-Presidents report

Recruiting for PTO

Amie suggests it would benefit next years' PTO to retain Diane and Danny in the role of Treasurer despite the 2 year term rule because of their extensive work on PTO tax

issues. Diane and Danny are willing to continue if voted to change the bylaws. Angie intends to continue secretary position. Main focus of recruitment will be to find Vice President and committee leaders.

Secretary report

No report

Treasurer report

Current account balance is \$29,799.64. Danny continues to work with the IRS in an effort to get late penalty fees waived for the past 3 years. Several letters/appeals have been written but to date no outcome is final. In addition, Danny advised that the PTO is officially registered with the State of Illinois as a non-profit organization (late fees were waived).

Old Business

Scrip Program

This program will not continue due to lack of interest/profitability.

Library renovation

Mr. Lockenvitz advised profits from We.Fit.In. program will go to classrooms needs and toward library renovation. \$500 will go to each grade level (Mr. Lockenvitz will meet with Danny to decide how best to disperse money). Regarding the library, the ceiling will be torn out and renovated, new tables and one checkout station will be purchased.

Recycling

Patty will discuss progress of general recycling program with Mrs. Mathy. The science club recycling program is being monitored by Marsha Veninga, coordinator of Science Club.

New Business

Market Day volunteers needed

Patty has put an article in the newsletter to advertise need for someone to distribute flyers, be there on pickup day from 3:30-5:00, and be backup for coordinator.

Carnival update (April 15th)

Price of wristbands and raffles is the same: \$10 for school aged kids, \$5 for under Kindergarten; raffle tickets 4/\$1 at door, 5/\$1 in advance.

We are adding a popcorn machine and cotton candy machine: at least one, if not both, will be included in the price. We have the Zoo Lady, a balloon artist and a juggler coming this year (16 years old, only \$25/hr).

We will be adding some new games this year (some electronic). Need someone to do cheap or free woodworking to make new games. Mary is pitching some with rusty nails. A flyer for baskets will go out early March. The Otto Family will be doing the meal this year...Otto Dogs...hotdog, chips and pop. \$3 in advance, \$3.50 at door.

Still working on groups to work the games. BHS Honor Society may be working some of the games and maybe U-High FCA.

Note: Scholarships are available for carnival costs. Diane advises no ticket pickup at the door this year. Tickets will go home with the students.

Motion to adjourn at 7:33 by Josh Houtzel