

January 13, 2009
PTA Meeting
Minutes

Attendees: Maria Scroggs, Beth ARnold, Tricia Slovacek, Mark Nelson, Daphne Biener, Rob Kelly, Karen Turcotte, Fawnda Hathaway, Steve Matteson, Judy Walden, James Soole, Sue Myers, Robin Marshall, Ellen Berns, Deborah Holland, Irv Stern, Lana

Meeting Called to Order: 6:34pm

Welcome & Intro

November Minutes Approved

Guest Speaker: Beth Arnold: How to have a successful Parent/Teacher Conference

- Beth's Children went through CC/Created this handout to help parents
- Teachers need feedback: 3 primary areas: Academic, Emotional/Intrinsically/Socially
- Parents can always communicate through-out year via Friday Folders/e-mail as well.
- Sometimes not "in-person" conference in Feb, especially important to meet towards the end of the year
- In advance of conference: look at Friday Folders, review work with kids, Ask kids what they would like you to ask about, what they are concerned about.
- Kids (in 4th Grade especially) know that they are the most important, that everyone wants to make sure that they are successful have a good year
- Conference w/ Kids: start positive, touch on challenges/opportunities, end with positive.
- Opportunity to understand teachers expectations/this is a great learning time for kids.
- Most Important: spend time on strengths at home after conference
- Make sure teachers know of anything that is going on in the family that may impact children
- If parents want to pursue summer add-on opportunities, work with teacher
- Work on plan with kids, what do they want to work on?
- After conference, touch base each week on goals identified in conference while going through Friday Folder
- Kids need to feel as though everyone is on their team.
- Talk about things w/ kids/teachers before they become and issue whenever possible

- Upper Grades: this is time where social skills are developing and teachers are working with kids on this all the time in every subject
- If your child has an iep/other service helpers and you would like to spend more time with those individuals, feel free to e-mail/call to get/give feedback
- If kids are bothered by a social issue that teacher could help with, suggest that child make appt w/ teacher to discuss.

Principal Updates

- Kindergarten Registration tomorrow at 6p for in district kids/New on-line registration will be implemented this fall
- Spelling Bee: This Friday @ 9:15a
- Congrats for “Mr” Nelson winning GeoBee
- Conferences coming up
- Science Fair on the 27th
- Lunch Program: High correlation w/ achievement gap and free/reduced lunch. Looking at ways to improve our offerings in line with equity goals
\$100k Parent Donation/Start studying best focus and then work on higher needs schools first
- School Musical: You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown. 25th Anniversary Production. Encourage Attendance by all.
- Safety Program: CAP –
 - Lisa Hughes chairing a committee of parents
 - Will run focus groups with kids/use that info to meet the kids needs and feelings about school

Elaboration on CAP (Heidi)

CAP Program (Child Safety):

- PTA planning to offer over the next 3 years
- Each Child participate at least 1X before leave for middle school

Volunteer Updates (Fawnda)

- T-Shirts profits are going toward tile project (Rita Needs Help)
- Movie Night TBD
- Lisa Beauchamp will be Volunteer Coordinator going forward
- Jolynn Needs Library Help
- May need more Science Fair Mentors

Coal Creek T-Shirt Fund-Raiser for Tile Benches: 25th Anniv Project (Kristin)

- We have cut budget (to \$4k) for 25th Anniversary Project and will be using proceeds from this fundraiser to mitigate costs

- Order forms due 1/23
- Each child will have opp to produce a tile that will be attached to benches
- Rita will need parent 4th/5th grade kids to help

Nomination Committee (Heidi)

- Have 3 board positions vacating this year
- Need volunteers for nomination committee as board may not recruit
- Need min of 3 committee members to solicit board members:
Pres/Secretary/Treasurer
- Slate of candidates should be presented in Mar/April Meeting
- 1 month for any write-in votes
- Following month candidates would present qualifications/ membership will vote
- Contact Heidi if have interest in being on nomination committee or on board
- Teachers may be on nominating committee

PTA Meeting Next Month:

- Briggs/Gamlin: Director of Communication and Legal Policies at BVSD
- Grew from discussion re: ratios
- Discussion will touch on bond issues/ ways to create the revenue necessary to make a difference w/ ratios, etc

Anthology Update (Tricia)

- Will be w/in Budget
- 2 Books: k-2, 3-5
- Will not “force” 100% participation this year
- Teacher participation will be minimized this year
- Each teacher will have an assigned volunteer under direction of teacher
- At this point, if kids don’t participate, will still get book
- Hopeful to have young author come in and talk to kids at end of program instead of “Tea”

Budget Discussion

- Letter sent to entire school
- Current Budget allocated at \$43,700
- Unallocated Funds: Concerned about future fundraising
- Looked at survey and weighed needs of parents/students/teachers
- Para Discussion last PTA Meeting: Based on staff feedback, PARA not appropriate at this time
- Shade Structure: \$30k – put on back burner due to cost

- Have additional costs that are occurring this year and are un-budgeted, but are in lines w/ our PTA Goals.
- Requests:
 - Consumables (\$8200) – New Curriculum Needs: Purchase Spring 2009 for fall
 - CSAP Prep Books (\$1450)
 - Wish List (\$6000)
 - PE Equipment Funding (\$1000)
 - 25th Anniversary Project (\$4000)
 - LCD Projector Installation (\$1000)
 - Spring Fling (\$575) – Additional Kid Activity
 - \$22,225
- Potential Budget Additions 2009-2010
 - Summer Reading (\$900)
 - Additional Para (\$10,000)
 - Consumables (\$8200)
 - PE Line Item (\$1000 to \$2000)
 - CAP – Safety Program (\$3500)
 - Printers (\$800-\$1000)
 - \$24,400
- Total number of items to be approved this evening: \$22, 225. We have \$26, 700 unallocated.

Discussion:

Robt Kelly: Uncomfortable w/ PTA picking up infrastructure related items
 JK: Traditionally PTA has helped w/ these kinds of things because there is just one bucket of money for field trips, etc that School has available. When added expenses come up, PTA has generally “helped” in past

Irv Stern: Shade Structure (are there not less expensive options?): Costs could certainly vary: Grants are available to mitigate. Board Feels that we need a committee to work on this project and perhaps we should fundraise separately for this item if parents decide that they want to support this item

Kristen Brynestad: looking at next year, if we approve to add all these items to this years budget, then we will have to make some tough decisions next year.

Karen Turcotte: Many Parents surprised what PTA funds go for. Felt that had they had more information, would probably have donated more.

Beth Arnold: CSAP Prep, not teaching to the test, all good information that kids need to learn

Lana: As we expect that next year we may have less funds, perhaps this is a good time to discuss the specific amounts. Perhaps we need to

Heidi H: Robt Kelly has researched lots of opportunities to add to our fundraising efforts.

Robt Kelly: We are looking at continuing to ramp up fundraising . Restaurants/ Dominos, etc

General: Opportunities to cut these items, could approve a portion of what is being asked for. We could ask parents to chip in and cut “wishlist”. We do have a scholarship program available for parents w/ hardship.

Mark Nelson: 25th Anniversary Project: Outreach to alums? Hands from alums, plaque w/ donor names.

Vote:

Motion to Fund 1st 4 items at 85%
Keep 25th Anniversary Project as is
Discussion/Not voted upon

Discussion JK: We came up with these numbers by asking teachers what they need, where are cuts to come from?

Consumables: \$8200
Motion to approve \$8200 in consumables
2nd and approved

CSAP Test Prep \$1450
Motion to approve full amount
2nd and approved

Wish List \$6000
Motion to lower and charge families
Discussion: could vote on case by case basis, monthly PTA meetings could approve

Motion to approve \$4800 and get parents to kick in more \$\$\$, come to PTA if need more
2nd and approved

PE Equipment Funding \$1000
Motion to approve
2nd and approved

25th Anniversary Project (previously approved)

LCD Projector Installation \$1000
\$500 PTA Initiative, \$500 Principal Fund \$500- Line Items, no vote necessary

Meeting Adjourned: 8:26