

PTSA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2013

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Edana Peacock

Secretary's Report – Natalie Roberts

- “I move to approve the April PTSA general meeting minutes as presented,” by Laura Berry, seconded by Michele Riley. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report – Edana Peacock (Taneka Ogden and Cindy Buono not present)

- The bank statement was opened and reviewed by a non-signer. There will be a full treasurer's report at the next meeting.

Principal's Report – Marla Newton

- Newcastle will have another 2nd grade teacher to bring us up to 5 for the 13-14 school year (4 at every other grade level).
- There are 20 ½ day K students, so it is likely that we will have 2 ½ day Kindergarten classes for the fall as enrollment typically increases over the summer.
- Staff is working on room placement and teachers are engaged in student placement.
- Parents will need to verify their kids' enrollment online, and more information on this will follow in enews. Family access will be involved, but you can also mail in your verification.

Teacher's Report – Kelly Goddard & Laura Berry

- Lots of activities, including field trips! 4th graders went to the arboretum and wastewater treatment plant in May.
- Book fair went well – more than \$13,500 sold onsite at Newcastle, with \$3,375 in UBS (University Book Store) credit for the school.
- May 31st is the Newcastle Amazing Race! This year, the school is doing a new or gently-used sports equipment drive. There is a \$40 registration fee. We are donating all supplies to Tacoma School District (their organization in preventing drop-outs and giving students other opportunities) Laura Berry's sister worked with her regional coordinator so 1 high school, 1 middle school, 1 alternative school and 2 elementary schools will benefit. Our goal is to collect 350 sports items. If this goal is met Mr. Miller will give a bonus “choose your activity” day in P.E for students.

Teacher/Staff in the Spotlight – Fourth Grade Teachers: MJ Keller, Kelly Goddard, Trent Neugebauer & Amber Hargraves

- Goddard: For this year's eco columns, the PTSA purchased the containers (no more 2L bottles!) Eco columns house fish, crickets, snails and more, with students planted the eco columns from seed. 4th Graders went on a field trip to the UW Botanical Gardens and discussed ecosystems. Then, last week they went to Brightwater Treatment Plant, as part of the Land/Water unit. Also, science has new digital scales, and these are used in multiple math lessons as well and across grade levels. Students are reading fantasy and survival, and created own book tubs on Pacific Rim. Includes 8 – 10 novels that are leveled. Marla purchased tubs so we don't have to wait for district rotation. The book room is great for guided reading groups and assessing with Fontas & Pinnel for the end-of-the year.
- Keller: 4th Grade writers tackled new projects in addition to the district curriculum. Students created a class book of poems that helped them through the publishing process and have a hard copy book to take home. Teachers expressed a huge thank-you for the COW support! They are in hot-demand. COW's made publishing so much easier. There is new writing curriculum coming next year to get us to Common Core Standards. 4th Graders use COWS in Math, as well. 4th Grade does math recaps on Thursdays, and this helps figure out Math Stations for the following Monday. They also do math walkabouts, trade kids and work on different skills as needed.
- Hargraves: Teachers expressed thank you for the auction! It was a great success – teachers appreciate all of the work and money that was raised. Also 4th grade teachers say thank you for all of the science materials the PTSA has purchased, including safety goggles, digital scales, eco-columns and stop watches. These are great to have in all classrooms. The COWS are in high-use – and thank you for the \$50 for books for each classroom. Also, Tracy Art lessons were great – 4th grade teachers expressed thanks to the art docents. The program did a great job of tying art into their curriculum. Final thank you's to the PTSA for the book room, and Kate Poaster's interactive science lessons. Kids learn so much from them. Thanks for all of this from the 4th grade team.
- Neugebauer: The 4th Grader teachers reported the following wish list: more EA time, including math support EA; getting another COW or something similar; iPads; dual pens for active boards; continued bookroom support; library support; and science support.

Note: COWs are not compatible for upcoming testing screen resolution and other requirements are not qualifying for testing, district has identified the problem and will let us know the solution.

PTSA response: Unfortunately, EA time is maxed out, PTSA cannot fund any more. PTSA has upped the funding consistently the past few years and now give \$20K each year. Math support is something the presidents have been working with Marla about... the money is there but there are limitations and requirements from the district. Extra reading support must be a certificate employee, so the PTSA can't fund any program w/o a certificate employee to head it. There isn't anyone to oversee it and the PTSA can't fund the salary. PTSA is going in to the 13-14 budget meeting to figure out spending, including different ways to add additional books for the book room.

Oral Reports from Active Committees:

- ISF – Rebekah Kim. This year, ISF Raised 681,000K at the Nourish Every Mind luncheon. This allows for support of:
 - the first installment of ISF's rotating **\$100,000 Dedicated Fine Arts Fund** for secondary band, orchestra, vocal, drama and visual arts programs
 - continue ISF's ongoing roster of programs
 - expand ISF's successful **Pre-K/Kindergarten Summer School**
 - support even more **High School STEM Clubs and initiatives**
 - begin investing in a **\$364,000 elementary and middle school writing curriculum**
- Parent Ed – Kris Blik. The chairs started the year wanting to get outside the box with the opportunities offered and did just that. This year's literacy sessions were very successful. Laura Berry led the session and they were very well-received. Thank you to Laura and Pam Schaff, too. Danielle Dixon & Stina Fluegge are the new parent ed co-chairs for 13-14 school year.
- Spring Family Event – Leanne Cole & Michelle Riley. This year's Westward Ho! event produced a good crowd and it was super-fun. It was very successful for kids of all ages. Thank you to Michelle, Leanne and Cindy!
- UBS Spring Book Fair – Laura Berry. We will need to find a spring book fair chairperson for 13-14 school year. This will coincide with the walk-a-thon. This year's book fair did not have enough volunteers. Ideas welcome for how we can rally more next year.

Business - Edana Peacock

- Special Funding Requests -- none
- Budget Revisions: **"I move to move \$1K under the Event Food & Beverage line item," by Laura Berry. Motion seconded by Meri Hartman. Motion passes.**
- Budget Committee: A budget meeting will be scheduled, potentially for Friday, May 31 mid-day. Lunch will be provided. We will go line-by-line through the budget.

Announcements – Edana Peacock

- Tuesday, May 21st – 5th Grade Concert, 7pm
- Friday, May 24th – No School, (due to no snow days this year!)
- Monday, May 27th – No School, Memorial Day
- Thursday, May 30th – Kindergarten Concert, 7pm
- Friday, May 31st – Mochas with Marla, 9:15 AM
Newcastle Amazing Race, after school
Last Day to Order School Supplies
- Monday, June 3 through Wednesday, June 5 – 5th Grade to Camp Warm Beach
- Thursday, June 6 – Last day of Student Banking
- Monday, June 10 – Final PTSA meeting of the school year
- Tuesday, June 18th – 5th Grade Promotion 9:30AM
Last day of School!

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Roberts, Secretary.