



**PTSA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
March 11, 2013

**Call to Order – Edana Peacock**  
Pledge of Allegiance

**Staff in the Spotlight – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teachers Kathy Keegan and Mary Greeniaus**

Keegan and Greeniaus reported that 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is the biggest challenge/transition in a child's education, as students move from primary to intermediate levels. Students develop their independence and learn how to do better through self-motivation, challenging themselves to do their best. Newcastle 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are currently studying pioneers and rocks/minerals.

The teachers expressed their appreciation for COWS (tablets), and said it makes writing easier to manage and are pleased with so many online learning tools they can use in the classroom. The teachers have staggered As students move from primary to intermediate levels, their personal narrative curriculum so COWS have been available to all students.

Keegan and Greeniaus also shared their appreciation for their art docents, especially Laura Derwin. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will also have Tracy Art this spring.

Lastly, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers expressed appreciation for the mobile science units. Students are completely engaged!

The following wishes were communicated:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has been approached by Issaquah Salmon Hatchery to host the salmon here at school. Students would see the whole lifecycle through an aquarium. It would cost \$1,000.
- iPads to help support the new literacy curriculum. The PTSA is waiting to find out what the district and the state will provide to determine how the PTSA can support this.

**Secretary's Report – Natalie Roberts**

"I move to approve the January minutes as presented" by Kim Plowman, seconded by Michelle Riley. Motion passes.

**Treasurer's Report – Cindy Buono**

The January bank statement has been opened and approved by a non-check signer. Cindy presented the reconciliation summary for January. Lani confirmed that Jimmy Johns and notebooks were represented in the Staff Appreciation budget actuals.

**Principal's Report – Marla Newton**

- Kindergarten registration is Wednesday. The school is enrolling another 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grader this week. COGAT for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders is finishing up and results will be out in the spring. Information for these programs will be sent home to those who qualify.
- The school is working on ongoing security measures and will be rolling out new signage and other means to direct traffic through the front door closest to the office. This is being done to make sure all visitors are going to the office for proper check-in/clearance before entering the building.

- Marla is planning on being here for 5<sup>th</sup> grade promotion and the summer will be her maternity leave. She will be here for August planning. Her schedule for September will be 2 days a week (Wednesday and Thursday), then back full-time the first or second week of October.
- Newcastle Elementary continues to grow with 100 new Kindergarten registration packets out for next year.
- Regarding planning for the new housing being built in Newcastle, the district knows about it. There is no expansion planned for next year, but maybe for the following year. The portables would be placed out in the quad.

#### **Teacher's Report – Kelly Goddard (not present), reports by Laura Berry**

- Stephanie DeJesus had a baby boy and named him Eli.
- This week is Classified Staff Appreciation Week.
- Miryam Christenson sent a thank you PTSA for the rug and mobile work unit.
- Laura Berry expressed her appreciation for the Kirby Larson assembly and author visit day!

#### **Site Council Report -- Edana Peacock**

- The driving/traffic situation around the school is becoming a safety concern with speeding and dropping off students at unapproved locations. School is open to discussion on how to improve the traffic issues for drop-off. Carol Best is the contact person in the office.

#### **School Safety Presentation – Carol Best, NC Program Assistant, not present. Rescheduled to our next meeting.**

#### **Oral Reports from Active Committees**

- Legislative – Edana Peacock, nothing to report at this time.
- ISF – Rebekah Kim.  
ISF funding comes from fall campaign (Say Yes to Kids) and the May spring Nourish Every Mind Luncheon. The “ask” for this year is reaching out to Kindergarten families. We are looking for more Kindergarten parents to fill up Newcastle’s 2 tables. The suggested donation is \$150 for The Fine Arts Fund. Newcastle is looking to fund secondary arts/music education.
- Parent Ed – Elizabeth Ury & Kris Blik.  
Laura Berry and Pam Schaff will be holding 2 parent seminars: Wednesday 4/24, and Thursday 4/25. The 7 keys to Comprehension: Strategies to Literacy will provide helpful information for parents to understand these strategies, including specific how-to’s and ideas. They are focused on parents of K through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.
- Spring Family Event – Leanne Cole & Janda Keenan.  
The spring family event will be Friday May 17<sup>th</sup> and will tie in to our UW Book Fair that week. We are looking for someone to chair this event.
- Box Tops – Meri Hartman.  
Newcastle collected 15,000 box tops for \$1500 total. It was a great success!
- Yearbook – Meri Hartman  
The PTSA has sold 445 yearbooks! Of those sold, 310 were online and 135 were hard copy order forms.
- Auction - Georgia Forchuk  
There are 388 people attending auction on Saturday night. Please ask your friends to shop the online auction, as it ends Wednesday. Raffle tickets also ends Friday, but are available the night of the auction.

#### **Business**

- Special Funding Requests

Ann Riemer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Balance and Motion Workshop, will culminate force and motion science unit. The cost is \$250. **“I move to approve \$250 towards funding the Rick Hartman balance and motion workshop for the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders,” by Allison Flash. Motion seconded by Kara Beal. Motion passes.**

- Elect Nominating Committee of Lissa Wax, Kara Beal & Michelle Riley  
**“I move to approve Lissa Wax, Kara Beal and Michelle Riley as the nominating committee,” by Meri Hartman, seconded by Janda Black Keenan. Motion passes.**
- Change to standing rules with the addition of an At-Large position for outgoing Presidents. Rules would read:  
Article IV: Officers  
Section 1: The Executive Committee of this unit shall be the President, four Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and an optional Officer At Large. The Officer At Large position must be filled by an officer who served on the Executive Committee the previous school year.  
Article V: Organization  
Section 1: The Executive Committee shall include the following positions: (1) President; (2) Vice President of Ways and Means; (3) Vice President of Programs and Enrichment; (4) Vice President of Outreach; (5) Vice President of Volunteers; (6) Secretary; (7) Treasurer; and (8) Officer At Large.  
**“I move to approve and accept the revision to Articles IV and V of the standing rules regarding the addition of the Officer At Large to the Executive Committee,” by Janda Black Keenan, seconded by Kim Plowman. Motion passes.**

#### **New Business**

This Wednesday’s schedule: school dismisses at 1:40 due to bus needs for high school testing.

#### **Announcements – Edana Peacock**

- March 13<sup>th</sup>, Online Auction #2 closes at 10PM
- March 15<sup>th</sup>, Report Cards Go Home
- March 15<sup>th</sup>, last day to turn in raffle ticket stubs before the auction
- March 16<sup>th</sup>, Newcastle PTSA Auction at 5:30pm at the Westin in Bellevue
- March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2nd Grade Concert at 7pm
- April 4<sup>th</sup>, 3rd Grade Concert at 7pm
- April 22<sup>nd</sup>, PTSA Meeting – elect new slate.
- April 30<sup>th</sup>-May 15<sup>th</sup>, MSP Testing, grades 3 - 5
- May 21<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert at 7pm

**Respectfully submitted by Natalie Roberts, Secretary.**