

PTSA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2013

Call to Order – Kim Plowman
Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary's Report – Natalie Roberts

Motion: "I move to approve the November minutes as presented," by Taneka Ogden, seconded by Meri Hartman. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Buono (not present) & Taneka Ogden

- Auction Student Photos budget decreased to \$0.00.
- Auction Class Art Projects increased by \$200 to account for additional 2nd grade class. This amount was transferred from the Student Photos line item (see above).
- Auction Teacher Parties increased by \$295 to cover special 5th grade activity. \$200 transferred from Student Photos, and \$95 transferred from Unallocated.
- Auction Neighborhood Procurement Income and Expense accounts created to allow for pass-through of dollars.

Principal's Report – Marla Newton

- The school has changed its format for enews. The email will be distributed on a weekly basis moving forward.
- Google Translate has been implemented on the website, allowing for the immediate translation of content on the website into different languages. Users can select their preferred language from the dropdown menu on the top right of the website.
- Principal Newton will present an update on the Newcastle School Improvement Plan to the School Board on Wednesday night. We have met our literacy goal from last year. All Maywood-Liberty feeder schools will be present.
- Newcastle enrollment continues to grow with another 3rd grader to start soon. Principal Newton expressed concern about parking as we continue to grow and is looking in to how we schedule events to maximize parking.

Teacher's Report – Kelly Goddard

- Grade levels are giving mid-year Everyday Math assessments right now.
- The 3rd C.O.W. (Computers On Wheels) is up and running.
- Students are finishing the make-ups for Stanford Testing this week. A total of 68 tests had to be made up due to absences/illness last week.
- Staff expressed appreciation for the \$50 gifts for PTSA enrollment.
- Auction projects are being finished up and all teacher experiences have been finalized.
- Staff expressed appreciation that PTSA is paying for staff auction tickets.
- Mrs. Barcello had her baby: a boy named Elijah. There is now a long-term substitute in place.

Site Council Report - Edana Peacock

- The new Newcastle Library is working on putting together a feature showing the history of Newcastle.
- Coal Creek Apartments was recently sold. As previously reported, the Brick Factory sold late last year, and there will be a plan proposed for its development.
- In light of Newton, MA, school safety has received heightened awareness. Marla, the district and the staff are very aware of student safety and plans are in place. Newcastle Elementary is safe. If parents have any questions about our safety plans, they are asked to contact Marla directly.
- At a recent Mochas with Marla, it was suggested that the school funnel all visitors through office instead of allowing open access to the school. The Issaquah District said this is not happening in the foreseeable future.

Danielle Dixon asked if there is a way to further explore this and what advocacy outlets are possible. Marla said the process would need to go through District Facilities office.

Teacher/Staff in the Spotlight: Kindergarten – Cathy Andrews, Kristin Cakarnis, Michelle Robinson

- **Kristin Cakarnis.** This summer Kristin took a class with Ms. Canedy called Issaquah Technology Project (22 elementary teachers participate each year.) It is a course on integrating technology for the classroom. 7 iPads and a printer were given to each participant's classroom. The course started in the summer, met in October and throughout the year. Common Core standards are changing and now have technology standards to a level 3, which means students must use technology to learn and not just play. Kristin's students have learned how to use camera and take pictures (community focus in social studies), she uses iPad apps to support the new reading curriculum, teach handwriting, and mathematics (learning how to count by 5s and 10s to 100). Cathy Andrews and Michelle Robinson also each received 1 iPad from our tech group and are waitlisted for the ITech project this summer.
- **Cathy Andrews.** Cathy expressed appreciation for the book room. Kindergarten desperately needed guided reading books, and now teachers can pull all of the books you need for all skill levels necessary. They are not scrambling for resources. Students are able to work collaboratively following the Making Meaning curriculum. The teachers are excited to have so many choices.
- **Michelle Robinson:** Michelle expressed appreciation for the auction and art docent parents and their tireless efforts. Kids are excited to participate!
- **Future technology funding:** PTSA is looking for raise the paddle auction funding to go for iPads for the Kinder – 2nd graders. PTSA is talking to Marla and Dan about getting this done, as it will have a significant impact for students who do not have computers at home.

Oral Reports from Active Committees

- *Community Liaison* – John Jensen (see Edana's Site Council Report above)
- *Legislative* – Edana Peacock
Focus Day happened, but we do not have information as yet. No one could attend.
- *ISF* – Rebekah Kim
The Nourish Every Mind Luncheon is in May. Anyone can sign up to attend, it's free. Newcastle Elementary has a couple of tables available. The event is on Thursday, May 9 at 11AM. Please contact Rebekah, Kim and Edana for more information if you'd like to attend.
- *Parent Ed* –Kris Blik
Literacy: Upcoming parent education nights are geared toward parents of K to 2nd grade, getting them on same page for literacy. Laura Berry suggested putting these opportunities into the Kindergarten Registration packet. Kris expressed appreciation to Laura Berry and Pam Schaff (our literacy curriculum specialist) -- to do this information session.
- *Race to Nowhere/Homework Forum @ Liberty High School on March 4.*
The ISD has asked PTSA to help them brainstorm at elementary/middle/high school levels for reactions to homework, levels of work, stress levels, and family dynamics. Newcastle will join with Briarwood and Liberty after the Race To Nowhere Presentation on March 4. If you know of any parents who have opinions or feedback to share about homework, encourage them to attend. There will be facilitation, notes and feedback to district. This information-gathering only. If you have already seen the movie, you may just go to the session afterwards. Note we have a copy of the movie available for borrowing at the library. There will be multiple homework forums district-wide that anyone can attend, and you can also email feedback directly to the district.
- *Box Tops* – Meri Hartman
Many box tops have been collected and a RECORD number of parents have volunteered to count and bundle. Box Tops went home with students to those parents today. We are hoping to have all counted by Monday so winners can be announced. There is stiff competition this year!
- *Winter Family Event/Auction Kick-off* – Danielle Dixon.
Science and Family Night is Friday, Feb. 8. Pacific Science Center will be presenting. Auction projects and Reflections entries will also be on display. Friends of Issaquah Salmon hatchery will have a booth. Students can see a salmon dissection and do a fish print, and more activities are planned.
- *Yearbook* – Meri Hartman
Over 300 families have purchased yearbooks this year. We are sending targeted letters to those families who have not yet purchased. Please send candid photos for yearbook consideration to Natalie Roberts at

Newcastle.yearbook.photos@gmail.com by mid-March.

- Auction – Georgia Forchuk.

Just because the procurement deadline has passed, parents can still donate gift cards. We need as many as we can get, at least 25 to 50 more, in smaller dollar amounts. Auction Procurement also needs premium wine, especially the larger wine bottles. Dessert Dash chairs are also looking for some more desserts, those that serve 12 or more. Folks can bake something or give \$20 directly to the dash. Auction raffle tickets will also be sold at Family Night and you do not need to be present to win. Cara Beal is the contact if you need more raffle tickets to sell. Tickets are now online, time to register for the auction. Tables are in groups of 10. If you can't go, but want to volunteer, please let Georgia know.

Business

Special Funding Requests

- Classroom Rug for Music Overload Room - \$345.94

Teaching Station for Music Overload Room - \$492.87

Motion “I move to approve the mobile teaching station for the music room for \$492.87.” by Michelle Riley, seconded by Taneka Ogden. Motion passes.

Motion “I move to approve the classroom rug for the Music Overload room for \$345.94 .” by Michelle Riley, seconded by Taneka Ogden. Motion passes.

- 2nd Grade Toymaker in-house field trip will be presented at a later meeting.

Standing Rules

There is a potential upcoming change to our standing rules, with the addition of an at-large position for outgoing PTSA presidents. We would like to create a new position on EC so that the current presidents can rollover into an at-large position for mentoring and support. There will be discussion and feedback on this, and at our next meeting we will have rewritten rules for approval.

Budget Re-Allocation

Polar Express was over-forecasted budget by \$99. Because the need for Polar Express was higher than estimated. No new money was spent, as we go through the year we re-allocate based on the actuals versus budget. We are now moving \$99 from unallocated into Polar Express and we are balanced.

Motion “I move to approve reallocating \$99 from Unallocated to Polar Express in the budget.” By Leanne Cole, seconded by Taneka Ogden. Motion passes.

Nominating Committee

We need a new nominating committee. These representatives talk to the community to find parents interested in becoming Executive Committee Members. The President position will be open. We are now taking nominations for the nominating committee. If anyone here is interested, they can self-nominate. Nominating Committee will have one meeting to learn rules and regulations, and then they will be tasked with finding people for the open positions. No one on the current EC can be on the nominating committee. The Nominating Committee will need to present the slate 10 days prior to the April meeting. It is a 5-week process that requires some emailing and phone calls. A list of open EC positions will be finalized in the next 2 weeks. Our April meeting is April 22nd.

Golden Acorn Committee

We need 1 Additional Volunteer to join Lani Pedersen and Kim Plowman on the Golden Acorn Committee. This award is for outstanding advocate and each year we receive lots of nominations that the committee needs to go through and qualify. If you want to join, please let Kim or Lani know.

New Business

Susan Reinhold, parent of 1st grader: The green trays in the lunchroom are not BPA-free, confirmed by Brian Olson who heads up food services in ISD. There is concern as food is served directly onto the trays without liners. BPA then leeches onto the food that is served to kids and staff. The BPA tray manufacturer also makes trays that are not BPA-free, and there are some schools in ISD that have BPA-free trays. The Newcastle PTSA wants to know how the district responds to Susan's inquiry so we can support this effort. She will be our advocate for this issue on plastics.

If your child/student is sick, please keep them home! Children must be symptom-free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school.

Announcements – Kim Plowman

- January 22nd-31st, Stanford Testing, grades 1, 2 and 5
- February 12th, Kindergarten Parent Orientation at 6:00pm
- February 18th - 22nd, **Second Winter Break... NO SCHOOL!**
- March 4th, *Race to Nowhere* viewing/Homework Forum at Liberty HS PAC
- March 7th, 4th Grade Concert at 7pm
- March 15th, Report Cards Go Home
- March 16th, Newcastle PTSA Auction at 5:30pm at the Westin in Bellevue
- March 19th, 2nd Grade Concert at 7pm
- April 4th, 3rd Grade Concert at 7pm
- April 30th-May 15th, MSP Testing, grades 3, 4 and 5
- May 21st, 5th Grade Concert at 7pm
- Door Prize Drawing

Door prize winner:

Allison Flash, who then donated her prize to the auction: a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card.

Adjournment.