

Meridian Park PTSA
Board Meeting
November 3, 2009

Action items are in bold

Call to Order:

The Board Meeting of the Meridian Park PTSA was called to order in the Meridian Park cafeteria at 7:50 PM by PTSA President Brian Heagler. Members had been informed about the meeting through flyers sent home in the boomerang and through PTSA and school websites. Those present were – Tracy Kalloway, Jodi Steele, Kathy Tinoco, Jenny Hannibal, Emmanuel Gnanapragasam, Tracey Poole, Janina Pacunski, Brian Heagler, Amy Jessee, Mary Crandell, Chris Stuvek, Aileen Lu, Beth Paul and Lorraine Flaherty.

Secretary's report :

Meeting minutes for October 6, 2009 were approved as written.

Vice President Updates and Committee Reports :

Beth stated the fall fundraiser raised just over \$14,000, although there was still some money to pay out in expenses. There were also 400-500\$ in straight donations. Lorraine reported that 121 children attended the magic show. Brian noted that we were hoping on a \$8000 profit from this and did better than expected. He reported a \$387 profit from the back to school BBQ, and \$84 loss at the Carnival. He stated that the Scrip program is doing very well. We had budgeted for a \$1000 profit for the entire year for this and we have already made a \$1488 profit. This year we introduced tiered membership levels and have made \$1445 in donations from that. So far this year we are almost \$1600 ahead of expectations, not including the fall fundraiser. He pointed out that it was important to remember that we have a \$3000 deficit in our budget but perhaps we may be able to restore some cuts. The readathon is upcoming and will be coordinated with the next book fair.

Brian noted that the fall carnival was a success. He has asked amy Stensrud to come to the December meeting to discuss further what worked well and what didn't so that we can play for next year.

Janina stated that all the clubs are going well.

Brian introduced Chris Stuvek who has agreed to lead the yearbook effort this year. Chris stated that he is planning to organize it as an afterschool club. He wants to use the creative talent of MP students. He hopes that it will be a learning experience for them. He is planning on 20-25 kids in grades 3-6th. He will be recruiting 2-3 parent volunteers. He has already found a distributor for the yearbook. It will be cheaper than last year and will be full color. He wants to make it a self sustaining program and not a burden on the PTSA. It will likely meet initially every other week after school, hopefully starting next month, with more frequent meetings as the deadline approaches. The day of the week has not been established yet but he is considering Fridays. The club will also focus on production, marketing and price points. It will all be done digitally and there will be a server on the network for photos. There is no budget for it this year and there will likely be a \$50 fee. Brian noted that the PTSA will do accounting for the club, but we don't technically have to approve the club because no PTSA funds are involved. Janina made a motion voicing PTSA support for the club, seconded by Amy Jessee. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

The group discussed what to do if too many kids sign up. Janina suggested that kids rotate, attending on different weeks. Lorraine mentioned that we had used a lottery for drama club. Brian wondered if it would be best to do a combination of selection and lottery. Brian encouraged people with ideas to contact Chris directly.

Brian mentioned that several parents have expressed an interest in having running club continue

and perhaps expanding it to a sports club. Amy Jessee noted that this would not be possible to do with a MP staff member for a variety of reasons, but there would work more smoothly if done by a volunteer or a private vendor. Jodi expressed concern that in the future this could create competition between the staff and PTSA over this type of club.

Brian reported that Amy Grady told him that all the classes now have liaisons. The first staff appreciation event will be a cookie exchange in December, led by Patty Saunders. Amy G. also told Brian we had 55 people respond to the volunteer survey and plan to repeat it in January and at the end of the year. Brian noted that we still need to brainstorm on volunteer recruitment and that we have a separate meeting to discuss. He stated that we also need to think about nominating committee. Chris pointed out that he will only be at MP this year to do yearbook.

Tracey Poole reported on the Works and the upcoming holiday food and toy drive. Flour will be the main item MP will be collecting again this year, although there is a list of 30 other things. She will need volunteers to help collect food from the classrooms. It will run from Dec 7- Dec 18th. Ideas for food and gifts will be displayed. She will also need volunteers to help at the works on 2 Wednesdays in the spring. Lorraine asked how the laundry for the works would be working this year. Shannon Brown is collecting lost and found.

Lorraine will email Shannon Brown and ask her to email her (Lorraine) whenever the lost and found has been bagged and is ready to be picked up.

Shannon will leave it in the PTSA room.

Lorraine will email Tracey after she has done the laundry and Tracey will either pick it up at the school or at Lorraine's house to take to the Works.

Tracey will email the dates for the food drive to Amy J. and Mary.

Kathy reported that we now have 203 members and she is still getting about 2 a week from staff.

Principal's Report :

Amy thanked the PTSA for the magic show. She reported that her staff is doing lots of professional development right now, including science and math training and having MSP meetings. She realizes that this takes the teachers out of the classroom and she appreciates our patience. MP has also started a play and learn group with Wonderland. It is happening in the Little Gym on Mondays from 10-11:30. Afterschool catalogs and student council elections will be happening soon.

Further Committee Reports :

Mary discussed role of communications person. It includes calendar, bulletin board, website, group emails, newsletter. She is looking for someone to take over the calendar, bulletin board and fliers. The Newsletter deadline is tomorrow and bommerangs will go out next Tuesday.

Tracey will email Mary info about the Works and Holiday drives for the newsletter by tomorrow.

Janina will email Mary info about rec chess for the newsletter by tomorrow.

Beth will email Mary info about MP T – shirts for the newsletter by tomorrow.

Chris will email Mary info about the yearbook club for the newsletter by tomorrow.

Mary will include an update on I-1033.

Lorraine will email Melanie and ask her to email Mary info about the fall fundraiser for the newsletter by tomorrow.

Brian will email Mary the President's letter by tomorrow.

Financial Report :

Aileen is still working out the details of online account viewing with our bank.

Teacher Report :

Jodi asked for parent feedback about October conferences. Most feedback was very positive and parents preferred having conferences earlier in the year. Some stated that 20 min seemed too short, others requested evening conference availability.

New Business :

Emmanuel noted that we should discuss in advance any changes we want to make regarding distribution of next year's directory.

Tracey P. commented that some people have been asking if there can be a party for the class who donates the most to the food and toy drive. It was decided by those present that this would be a lot of work and would not necessarily reinforce the values of giving for giving's sake.

Adjournment :

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM

Lorraine M. Flaherty, secretary