

Meridian Park PTSA
Board Meeting
September 15, 2010

Action items are in bold

Call to order:

The board meetings of the Meridian Park PTSA was called to order in the Meridian Park library at 7:00 PM by PTSA co-president Dixie Yamane. Members had been informed about the meeting through letters sent home in the boomerangs, and through PTSA and school websites. Those present were : Janina Pacunski, Brian Heagler, Kathy Tinoco, Aileen Lu, Lorraine Flaherty, Amy Jessee, Renee Smith, Mary Loes, Jodi Forschmeidt, Lindsey Amtmann, Tina and Nick Patten, Ann Yee, Todd Lingren, Luann Majeed, and Emmanuel Gnanapragasam.

Welcome and Introductions:

Each person at the meeting introduced themselves and stated what grades their children were in. Amy Jessee introduced Nick and Tina and suggested linking Little Caesar's rewards to activities like the Readathon and for Patrol Parties. Dixie asked Nick to share some ideas with the group. He suggested having pizza parties for walkathon and for reading milestones. He explained that he would like to be at the school 8 -10 times per year for different activities. His goal is to support academic reward systems already in place at Meridian Park and he would not be charging anything for the pizzas. He would see the program as a success for him if it could be stated in a newsletter that he had donated pizzas and if kids go home and talk about the pizza parties with their families. Renee asked Nick for business cards so that we could consider buying Little Caesar's pizzas for different activities. Janina suggested that we could sell them as 6th grade camp fundraisers. Amy J. suggested that could also be used for parent nights. Amy J. questioned whether this would fall under events or fundraising.

Amy J. and Dixie will generate ideas for using Little Caesar's rewards and get in touch with Nick and Tina.

Lorraine will send a copy of the minutes to Melanie Gillespie.

Nick asked what size the graphics for the rewards that go up in the classroom should be.

Mary L. will work on planning the size for the graphics.

Luann discussed starting an ultimate frisbee team at Meridian Park for 3rd graders. She has been in touch with the city league coordinator who will support it. Evergreen school and Edmonds have teams for elementary age students. She would like to start it in the spring as an afterschool activity with 16-20 kids. Luann and her husband would coach, and the league would provide frisbees. Renee expressed concern about liability issues and being able to reserve the field. Amy J. said the fields are not used until 4:30 P.M. by outside groups. Brian Heagler mentioned that he has been considering a basketball club.

Brian H. will contact the PTA council for guidance on liability issues.

Amy J. suggested opening the club to 2nd and 3rd graders or to 3rd and 4th graders. She mentioned that with 2 grade levels involved it is more inclusive. Renee asked whether the team would compete. Luann explained that the first 3-4 weeks would include 1 practice a week to learn the basics, and then

scrimmages would be added on the weekends which would be sponsored by the City League. Amy J. mentioned that Luann would need to speak with her about that because there are different rules when field trips are involved. Dixie asked whether there would be any cost and Luann said no. Amy J. mentioned that this would be a nice opportunity for general education and highly capable students to do something together.

Financial Report:

Brian gave the financial report and stated that we have some money to decide how to spend. A break-even budget is on the table and we have been carrying over an excess of about \$6000 for a couple of years. This year, largely because of the money made through yearbook sales, at the car show and at the spring drama performance, we have approximately \$12,000 carry-over. He mentioned that people contribute to have the money spent. He suggested that we form a sub-committee to discuss ideas and make recommendations for spending the money. He explained that we have been spending our money in the following ways: 31% to student support, 51% to teacher, staff and school, and smaller amounts to community and for administrative costs. He mentioned that the car show was a community event and we should consider investing in the broader community. Our current budget includes \$2000 to pay for starting the art docent program which over time may pay for itself. Brian asked whether we should allocate 20 minutes a meeting to discuss or have a sub-committee meet 2x week to brainstorm. Dixie suggested spending \$1000 per grade for a special field trip. She feels that the money should be spent the year it is raised. Lorraine suggested that a teacher representative should be on the committee. Amy J. suggested having each class make murals. Renee mentioned that the art docent committee had ideas about adding clay since we have a kiln at the school.

Kathy T. made a motion to formally adopt our July 2010 to June 2011 budget as presented by Brian, (with copy in the records of the minutes). Janina seconded this motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Brian will work on putting together a sub-committee and by the next meeting will present some names and ideas.

Brian made a motion to formally approve the following bank account signers: Aileen Lu, Brian Heagler, Kathy Henderson, Janina Pacunski and Dixie Yamane. Aileen seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion was carried.

Brian suggested that we have a bank sponsor the student directory.

Brian will look into having a bank sponsor the directory.

Brian presented a resolution in support of Jersey's Great food and Spirits, a copy of which will be included in the record. Brian made a motion that we adopt the resolution. Dixie seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion was carried.

Vice President Updates and Committee Reports:

Dixie reported for Patty Sanders. A list of volunteer opportunities will be going home in the boomerang this week.

Janina reported that several clubs will be starting soon. Amy J. requested that Janina send lists to the office of the kids in each club and also that she makes sure that fliers with club information go to the office. Janina mentioned that starting this year club coordinators must be members of the PTSA. Chinese and Spanish clubs will be held in room 201. Chess club will be held in Mr. Simpson's room. Lindsey mentioned that as a person new to MP it is hard to know whether to sign up for something because she is unsure of what other activities may be offered. She asked if it would be possible for a

list of activities to be sent home. Lorraine suggested that it include teacher led activities as well.

Renee asked Amy J. where the email list used to contact parents is generated. Amy is trying to work on a new list to include 2 parent households since right now the district only allows one email address per child.

Kathy T. reported that the fundraiser packets will go home tomorrow, although they ran out, so the half day kindergarten kids will get theirs soon. Kathy T. would like any questions about the fundraiser directed to her.

Mary L. wondered if it would be possible to have the parent letter translated for some parents. Amy J. explained that it is possible to do a simple translation saying that the letter is important and that the family should ask someone to translate it or contact the office for assistance. There is some concern about sending a letter like this too frequently, so it probably would not be used for a fundraiser, as it is more important for things like immunizations.

Dixie reported for Amy G. re: PTSA liaisons. Each teacher got sign up sheets and the group will be meeting in October.

Ann Yee reported that so far this year we have 154 members and \$1,300 in member donations.

Janina reported for Mary C. re: Communications. The date that the Cheetah Chatter comes out may be moved to the 3rd week of the month. She reminds us to send items for it to her. Parent orientation is next week. This will be a collaboration between the school and the PTSA.

Dixie will attend the parent orientation.

Kathy T. will start taking care of the front bulletin board.

Amy J. mentioned that we can always ask at the office if we want to use the display cabinets or the lobby for something. Kathy T. thanked Aimee Mainwaring for doing the fundraiser display.

Lorraine asked whether the PTSA would be supporting the Spring Flea Market, organized last year with the MP neighborhood association. It was decided that we would talk about this again as a group and make a decision at next month's meeting after the parent orientation and the volunteer letter has gone home, so we can see if we have the volunteer support to commit to this.

Lorraine will check with the Neighborhood Association to see what the Cleanscapes award will be used for. (Answer: ¼ mile markers on the Interurban trail from 145th to 175th and 4-5 benches along the Interurban trail).

Jodi F. reported on grants. Melanie and Jodi are currently revising the forms and they will go out at the end of September. Someone will come to a staff meeting to present.

Renee thanked Todd Crandell and Brian Heagler for doing such a great job organizing the back to school BBQ. Annette Stickney is in charge of the Fall Carnival.

President's Report :

Dixie mentioned that we still need a yearbook chair. Todd Crandell and Lori Heagler were mentioned as previously expressing interest.

Dixie will contact Todd and Lori.

Todd Lingren will help with photography for the yearbook.

Lorraine and Ann will co-chair the Golden Acorn Awards this year. Lorraine will talk to Kathy T. to get details.

Dixie made a motion to allow Marianne to vote her conscience at PTSA meetings and conventions. This was seconded by Brian. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion was carried,

Kathy T. will do the student directory and Janina will help.

Principal's Report:

Amy J. said that 2 new first grade teachers were hired. The bubble of 3 first grades and 3 kindergartens this year was discussed. Amy also mentioned the possibility of starting 6th grade camp scholarship accounts as a joint endeavor between the PTSA and ASB. She asked how the PTSA would feel about having fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for your child's cohort to go to 6th grade camp. Renee mentioned that Arts Festival night the Art Docent program will be selling art. Mary L. suggested that each grade chose a fundraiser.

Mary L. will be the lead in helping determine which fundraiser each class will do.

Brian mentioned that any money raised must not be handled by the PTSA.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Lorraine M. Flaherty, secretary