

General Membership Meeting

Thurston Elementary PTA

March 9, 2010

The General Membership meeting of the Thurston Elementary PTA was called to order in the TES library at 6:30 pm by President April Uffens.

Approval of the Minutes

- February minutes were read and approved

Action Item: Teena Seckler motioned to approve and Shari Furtwangler seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

Teachers Report

- 4th grade teachers Curtis Crosswhite and Kurtis Bonar talked about things that are happening in their classrooms. They are beginning a unit on the Oregon Trail and Oregon History. They are also looking at math programs, trying to get in line with the new state standards and focal points.
- They thanked PTA for heading up the “Hats off for Haiti” fundraiser. They stated that the kids enjoyed participating. They also stated that the students really enjoyed gymnastics night.
- April asked if they had looked at the organizers that she had given to Shari and about the IXL math program. Both stated that they hadn’t had much time to research.
- Shari stated that she had concerns with the cost of the organizers and getting parents to reimburse in a timely manner.

Guest Speaker

- Gloria Griffith, Springfield Council of PTA Clothing Chair, spoke about the Clothing Fund and Bratten House. She said that the need for clothing, socks and underwear is up this year. Every school in Springfield has access to vouchers if they have students in need.
- If parents keep track of how many pounds of clothing they donate to the Goodwill, the clothing X-change can get credit for that.
- TES PTA presented a check for \$300.00 to Gloria as a donation to the Clothing Fund. This is an annual donation made to the organization every year.
- Gloria encouraged all board members to attend the PTA Convention in April and asked that we donate a basket for the raffle if possible.

Principal's Report

- Shari announced that there would be a Family Reading Night held in the near future to fulfill Title I requirements. It will consist of reading and reading activities and every child will go home with a new book. Title I funds can be used for Title I families to purchase books, but Shari asked if PTA could purchase books for non-Title I families so that it could be a school wide event. She gave an estimated budgetary figure of \$300.00. If there were books left over, they would be used as prizes or incentives for future activities.
- Jade said that PTA is right on budget and didn't see a surplus anywhere to pay for books. She said that there was money that has not yet been spent for assemblies and that we could re-allocate funds to pay for the books.

Action Item: Brandy motioned to reallocate \$300.00 from assembly line item to pay for books. Jennifer Rogers seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

- Shari has ordered the No Excuses University banner. The cost was \$90.00 and she is working to get the artwork to the printer.
- She also said that she was working on getting T-shirts and funding them. There is still the possibility of using ACE Award money and the money from the Lottery Fundraiser to pay for them.
- The staff is currently done with the Staff Commitment for No Excuses University and she will be working with parents and students on drafting their versions of the agreement soon.
- Shari will be going to a Title I dinner, which is the same night as the April PTA meeting and would like a parent to go with her.
- She has been working with Ed Nailer on the fitness track and thinks that they will break ground this spring as soon as it dries out a bit. The estimated cost for the track is between \$10,000.00 and \$13,000.00. These figures are for a bark track and include volunteer help with construction. She still wants to look into the fitness stations with corporate sponsors to help fund.
- Jade stated that PTA has ample funds in savings to cover the cost of the track.
- The ACE Awards are currently accepting nominations for excellence in teaching and volunteer work. She encouraged nominations if parents were so inclined.

Library Report

- Teena Seckler reported that the Golden Ducks won the Battle of the Books for TES grades 3-5 and will go onto the District competition the following Saturday.
- She also reported the K-2 were currently battling and districts for their level would be held on April 14th.

Treasurers Report

- Jade noted a request for playground equipment and the need to add a line item to the budget. It was noted that Campbell's points are used whenever possible to purchase items for the

playground, but there are times when items must be purchased elsewhere. Currently the school is in need of tether ball ropes and Nerf footballs.

- Brandy suggested taking the money from savings to pay for equipment needs this year and then the board could add a line item for playground equipment next year.

Action Item: Brandy moved to use \$100.00 from savings to fund playground equipment needs for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year. Jennifer Rogers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- April announced that the St. Patrick's party would be held on the 10th of March.
- KMTR visited the school to tape the Red Cross receiving a check for \$683.09 raised by the students and staff during Hats off for Haiti.
- April reminded people doing baskets for Family Fun Night that if they were having trouble getting donations or needed items they could contact her or Jennifer Rogers.
- April announced that the response to the online survey for Staples back to school supply boxes was mostly negative and did not think it was something that PTA would pursue.
- Jade mentioned that PTA had intended to do a Jog-a-Thon and said that it could be a valuable fundraiser. She said that she would volunteer to organize the event if there was support for doing it.
- Brandy is starting up the SMART reading program and would like volunteers to read to students. She will be sending out an email.
- Sherry announced that April had officially been elected President for the next two year term.
- April announced that the folder games were ready to be checked out in the community room and that the Love and Logic materials were ready for parents to check out as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm by April Uffens.