

General Membership Meeting

Thurston Elementary PTA

September 15, 2009

The General Membership meeting of the Thurston Elementary PTA was called to order in the TES library at 6:32 pm by President April Uffens.

New Business:

- Introduction of 2009-'10 officers: April Uffens-President, Toni Webb-Vice President, Sherry Cantlen-Secretary, Jade Neckles-Treasurer.
- April proposed raising Single/Family dues from \$10.00 to \$12.00. State and National PTA organizations get \$9.00 from each paid membership. April felt \$12.00 was still a good value when free events that come with membership are taken into consideration.

Action Item: Linda Annus motioned to increase Single/Family dues from \$10.00 to \$12.00. Brandy Selby seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

- April suggested amending the Standing Rules to change the wording for corporate memberships to corporate fees.
 - Concern was raised regarding the difference between fees vs. dues and whether or not businesses would prefer one over the other.
 - April said that corporate sponsors receive advertising in return for their payment and felt they were not going to write off the expense
 - Shari Furtwangler said it would be better for businesses to have a fee as an advertising expense instead of dues to write-off.
- Brandy suggested amending the Standing Rules to add Membership as a standing committee.

Action Item: Jade motioned to amend and approve Standing Rules with changes. Brenda Royce seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

Treasurers Report

- Jade discussed changes in budget format for the 2009-10 school year as follows:
 - Elimination of the Cost of Goods Sold section; line items had been moved to the Expenses section of the Budget Overview.
 - Teachers would receive an allotment of \$12.00 per student that could be spend at their discretion instead of being designated only for field trips in hopes that requests for additional funds would decrease.

- The addition of a Website line item under Expenses. The board now maintains its own website at a lower cost that would have been paid had they stayed with the old format.
- Net Income was a negative figure due to the conservative Income figures and stated that PTA had sufficient funds in reserve to cover this amount.

Action Item: Teena Seckler motioned to approve budget as written.

- Brandy suggested that the Bond line item be removed.

Action Item: Teena Seckler motioned to approve budget with amendment. Brandy seconded the motion.

- Concern was voiced about the negative Net Income figure and it was suggested that the board add a line item showing cash reserves to cover it, balancing the budget.
- April stated that this was a working budget and could be amended as necessary.
- Toni noted that the budgets that have been passed previously have always shown a negative Net Income figure.

Action Item: Teena Seckler motioned to approve budget with amendments. Lisa seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Jade announced that the Thurston Elementary PTA was now on Facebook.

Principals Report

- Shari spoke about the following:
 - Being a Title I Target School with at least 35% of families qualifying for free and reduced lunches. This money is being used to fund afternoon reading intervention utilizing Kindergarten teachers. She will need parent involvement and the money must be spent on targeted children. Testing was being conducted to determine children to receive services.
 - Parent Coffee would be held once a month in the Community Room as a way to connect with families and address concerns. First coffee would be held on September 24th at 9am.
 - Magnetic calendars would be going home with families on Curriculum Night. She asked PTA to consider purchasing “Take 5” magnets to give to families. Cost would be less than \$1 per magnet and would be about ¼ sheet in size.
 - “No School” Fridays and explained that Teachers would be working a half day for collaboration instead of having late start on Wednesdays.

- The Coke Points program. Families participate on their own and the PTA would benefit based on points accumulated. April agreed to promote this through the newsletter and website.
- “Smart Ways to School” and asked if PTA would be interested in promoting the event. April agreed to promote on website and in newsletter. April inquired about facilitating a carpool program and a walking bus. Shari agreed to contact appropriate person.
- The Battle of the Books and noted that the district now buys all books for grades 3-5, but does not buy books for grades K-2. The PTA had budgeted \$500.00 for K-2 books noted that she would need an additional \$600.00 due to increased costs and lower discounts. April asked for a month to promote donations of books and funds.
- Tony asked if college flags would be hung throughout the school again this year and Shari indicated that she was working on it.
- April inquired about the reader board and when it would be working. Shari stated that the reader board is PC based and the school runs on Mac’s so they were working on it.

Staff Report

- Teena Seckler spoke about Library Orientation with all grades. She stated that children were learning library procedure and research skills and reminded parents that they can have an account of their own to check out additional books.
- She will have a library page on the school website and also is currently looking for volunteers to help in the library.
- Pre-school story time will be held again this year but the time and day is still uncertain.

Meeting was adjourned by April Uffens at 7:45 pm.