

PSO Meeting
September 15, 2008
Mary Woodward cafeteria, 9:00AM

Board Members Present: Pam Engel, Natasha Ryan, Sandra Jones, Catie Stedman, Kathy Belden

Pam welcomed everyone to the first PSO meeting of the school year. Everyone attending introduced themselves.

The minutes from the May 2008 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Sandra Jones reviewed the 2007-2008 budget. The year began with a funds balance of approx \$64,000, there was a net deficit of approximately \$5,000 for the year so we ended the year with about a \$59,000 funds balance. The paddle raise at the auction was for the purchase the document cameras.

We reviewed the 2008-2009 budget which is based on 530 students. Included in the budget is a spring fundraiser which is still without a chairman and is one of our two large fundraisers for the year, the other being the jog-a-thon. If there is no spring fundraiser it will drastically affect next year's budget, cutting or lowering all the non-mandatory items, including instructional assistants, field trips, and funds given to teachers.

The service events are expected to break even so their estimated income is equal to the expenses. Though most of the events made a small profit last year, that is not the intent and is usually used for the following year.

There will be \$20,000 spent on instructional assistants this year, \$15,000 for reading assistants and \$5,000 for math assistants. Last year there were funds approved for the math texts which will be purchased this year. There is a new budgeted expense of \$3,000 for the innovative grant.

The bus fund has also increased to take into consideration the increasing cost of gas. Most of the other budgeted expenses were similar to the prior year.

The budget was voted on and approved.

Innovative Grant

Michael Shaw explained the innovative grant. It is modeled after the Tigard Tualatin School Foundation program to support innovative ideas and integrate them into the curriculum. This can be one program using all \$3,000 or a number of different programs. All ideas are welcome, from the garden, to document cameras to special curriculum. The applications should be ready in the next few weeks and will go out to all parents and staff. They will be due at the end of October and we hope to have them reviewed and approved by mid November to be implemented during this school year. The innovative grant committee will review and approve the applications.

Committee Reports

Ice Cream Social

Kara Doan reported the ice cream social was a success. The two changes they made this year, changing the date and shortening it to two hours worked very well. They went through 675 ice cream sandwiches and some popsicles they found. Next year they will coordinate the ice cream social with the supply drop off so the times will correlate to avoid people waiting around for the ice cream social to begin. There will be the same chairs next year.

Bank Day

Carol Feng announced the school savings program with Washington Mutual will begin on Tuesday, September 30, and they are ready to go. There was a question regarding the status of Washington Mutual as an ongoing concern. Washington Mutual is the only bank that does school savings so the only choice we have for the program; in addition, the children's funds are FDIC insured so are secure.

Staff Appreciation

Clair Sawin kicked off the year with a surprise for the teachers on their desks on the first day, along with a root beer float party at the end of the first day of school. The committee will support the teachers during conference week, there will also be a staff appreciation week and a cookie exchange for the staff during the holiday season.

Specialty Fundraiser

Amy Brown reported there will be 3-4 restaurant nights this year. The first is going to be with Pizzacato in late October. She is also going to promote the Albertsons preferred card to get as many people signed up as possible.

Box Tops

Tami Ward will be kicking off the first box top contest in October. There will be a contest each quarter. If each kid brings in 10 box tops a quarter that will be \$530 raised per quarter. She is also going to encourage children and families to collect box tops from relatives and friends who do not have children in school.

Jog-A-Thon

Robin McFall gave an update of the status of the Jog-a-thon. It is one of the two major fundraisers of the PSO for the school and is targeted to bring in approximately \$28K of revenue. The goal is for each child to collect an average \$60 in pledges. On Friday there will be an assembly to kick off the Jog-a-thon and the fundraising packets will go home. The children have until the 29th to collect pledges and will be given a water bottle when they turn in their pledge envelopes. We do not encourage door-to-door collections but to ask friends and relatives that the child knows. The committee are in the process of securing volunteers for before, during, and after the event. There will be an email going out about additional volunteers needed.

Art Lit

Karen Kemp discussed the art lit program. There is a district wide rotating library of eight different art programs of which Mary Woodward has selected six to implement during the year. There are teams of parents that present the artists and a related project to the children in each class. There is a display board in the lobby with examples of previous art programs. The chairs are looking to get a dedicated document camera to use in their program, as the ones provided by the district are very old and not very effective.

Enrichment

Heidi Clark reported the sign up forms for the after school program went out on Friday. There are a variety of classes to choose from this year, some from last year and some new programs.

Tigard Local Option

Michael Shaw presented information on the Tigard Local Option that will be on the ballot in November. This is a property tax that was approved in 2000, renewed in 2004 by a very slim margin and is now up for renewal in 2008. This tax is very small; \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value however has a very large impact on the school district. This tax funds 84 teachers district wide. It adds 7.1 million dollars to the district budget for 5 years. The last time it passed by only a few hundred votes and we need to ensure its success this year. It did not pass on Bull Mountain last time. Voting for this is a way we can exert local control.

Principals Report

Vickie welcomed everyone and noted there were about 40 people at the meeting which is a great turnout, and a sign of a solid and steady PSO.

The ice cream social was a great success and she will be sure to coordinate the supply drop off time with the ice cream social next year.

She wanted to thank the staff appreciation committee and noted the staff really appreciates the work on their behalf. Thank you also to the PSO for the wonderful support of the school. Due to fundraising efforts, in addition to the instructional assistants, each teacher receives \$250 for classroom materials and each grade receives funds for field trips and support.

The reading assistants are going to come on board at the end of September.

The school year has started well and we are happy with the size of the classrooms. There is an additional 5th grade class and kindergarten class this year.

This year there will be a change the school newsletter. Instead of going out every week, they will go out two times a month, usually the first and third Friday. However sometimes the first and fourth Friday will be necessary. There are many using the email option to have the Newsletter sent, however the print option will remain available.

At back to school night, September 23 & 24 expect to hear from Pam, Pardis (art lit), Robin (Jog-a-thon) and Michael (Levy). If you are attending both nights, you are welcome to skip the introduction periods and just attend the classroom orientation.

Vickie is available for any questions or concerns a parent has by either phone or email.

Volunteer Coordinator

Catie still has two positions to fill for the various committees.

The winter wonderland position may be filled, she is corresponding through email with someone and is waiting for a response.

Catie's main priority is the Spring Fundraiser. She would like to get a team of about 4-5 people, as this is one of the two major fundraisers for the year, and provides the funds for the instructional assistants that are hired every year. The chair does not have to do an auction but can do something else, it is up to them. Some examples are a family run, an online auction, a check writing campaign, or something with just the parents. Since the event is to happen in the spring, there is planning that needs to be completed soon so we need a chair to initiate the planning process.

New Business

There were math workbooks purchased last year for use for the 5th graders this year. They are not part of the new school district curriculum that will be implemented next fall. These are supplemental materials to assist children regardless of what level they are in math. There were enough books purchased for the three fifth grade classrooms, we have added an additional classroom and the additional class is requesting funds to purchase these books for their classroom as well. The request was approved.

Election of new officers for 2008-2009: Catie Stedman, Volunteer Coordinator; Natasha Ryan, President Elect. Both positions were approved.

Jenna Smith is our webmaster and has been updating the website. It can be found a www.marywoodwardpsd.com. Many forms, programs and information can be found on this website. Jenna has been in contact with the person who can link the PSD website from the Mary Woodward website.

The Missoula Children's Theater will be November 3-8. There will be auditions this year so there will not be such a time constraint on getting your registration form in.

Michelle Woodworth is the chair for the carnival this year; she has a fifth grader so her position will be open next year. She is looking for a person or group of people who would like to get involved this year, maybe with one aspect of the carnival and then take over the chair position next year. The work on the carnival begins in January. If you are interested, please contact her.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15.