

PSO Meeting
November 17, 2008
Mary Woodward Music Room, 9:00AM

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

Pam welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Treasurer's Report

Sandra Jones reported on our budget, the enrichment programs have started. The taxes are complete.

There have not been any major purchases this month. Missoula Children's Theatre is over, however the net income had not been finalized.

Committee Reports

Missoula Children's Theatre

Tracy Prialx reported success with Missoula Children's Theatre, everyone enjoyed the show. They estimate that they made \$1,300-1,400. This is a bit less than last year because though prices remained the same ticket sales were down a little bit. The children involved really liked the program. The committee suggestion is to continue the program next year. Vickie reported though there is a heavy impact on the school, it is for a short amount of time and the school is in favor of the program for the benefit to the kids.

Jog-A-Thon

Robin McFall reported on the status of the Jog-a-thon. There are 10 pledge envelopes still out, she has sent second collection notices and that is all she is going to do. Once employer matches come in, the fundraiser will net between \$31,000 and \$31,500. For the envelope turn in competition, 4 classes turned in their envelopes on the same day. Red Robin was gracious enough to expand the sundae party from one to four classes. Robin volunteered to chair the program next year.

Family Events

Sherry Webb reported on Movie night. Approximately 125 people attended, it ran smoothly and easily. The canned food collected is being donated to the giving baskets going to MW families in December.

Specialty Fundraiser

Amy brown reported on the status of the specialty fundraisers. She has not yet received the funds from the Pizzacato night from last month but expects to soon. The next one is Ceramic Café on December 1. In January will be Pasta Veloce and in February Max Pub in Tigard.

Holiday Bazaar

Amy Turner reported the Bazaar planning is going well, currently they are in advertising mode. They are still looking for a few vendors as there are two competing Bazaars on that day, one at Tigard High and one at the Expo center. Tanya Steele is organizing a craft, she is looking into possibly Karaoke and other activities for the kids. Alice Shaw has organized refreshments and Julie Padbury is going to do the winter wonderland on the stage where pictures with Santa will be taken. They are still looking for volunteers to help with setup, tear down and during the day. They ask everyone to spread the word regarding the Bazaar to all family and friends. They had the idea to informally organize classes and groups to meet there to encourage more people to attend, especially the kindergarten families. In addition, there are still a few yard signs available if you live on a busy street.

Staff Appreciation

Clair Sawin reported there was a cooking exchange coming up for the staff in December, this was a great success last year. There will be a flier going out soon for those interesting in donating baked goods.

Innovative Grant

Sherry reported that there were four applications received and the winner will be announced this week.

Enrichment

Heidi Clark reported the winter session is currently being organized.

Spring Fundraiser

There have been really two main ideas regarding the spring fundraiser:

The first idea is the Tile Art program which is to paint tiles and sell them as a school beautification project. We would put tiles painted by the kids on a specified wall and sell them for approximately \$25/tile. A place was found to have the tiles donated and we will look to get the paints and glazing materials donated. Vickie reported on the space available to put the tiles, outside will not work, the building is stucco and there is not a stable exterior place. She has to talk to the district about an interior place to hang the tile, the cafeteria may be the only option. There was a suggestion to frame big boards of tile and hang them high in the cafeteria, these would also be moveable. Catie also has a person who volunteered to mortar and put the tiles in place.

The second idea is a Comedy Night at Jesters Comedy Club on Murray & Milikin Way. During the day this place is a corporate meeting center and at night turns into a comedy club. They have a room that can fit 250 people and have offered to do a show for us immediately before their first show of the night. This would be a big social event in which a check writing campaign is included. Westside could take care of childcare as they did last year for the Auction and the adults could have a night to socialize.

We can only have two fundraisers a year so need to choose between one of these two ideas. Please give comments and suggestions.

- ◆ Regarding the Tile Art, it is good the tile is donated.
- ◆ Would some kids be left out of the tile painting? No, all kids would be able to make a tile, and people would be given the choice to not only purchase their children's tile but to donate for other children.
- ◆ When/Where would the Tile Art happen? Pardis has the current year Art Lit slots filled, is it possible to incorporate this into next years Art Lit program?
- ◆ Would the kids be pulled from class for Tile Art, the teachers may not be in favor of this. It would need to be an event outside of the school day.
- ◆ Comedy club option seems relatively risk free.
- ◆ An auction, as done in prior years seems very intensive, tile as well, the comedy club does not seem so intensive.
- ◆ The Tile Art seems like a great idea, could we pursue it for next year.
- ◆ Is it possible to sell tiles at the Carnival?
- ◆ Possibly set aside one day for one hour for Tile Art and have all classes participate at the same time, or we could set it up like art lit.
- ◆ Other suggestions for space are the entryway, breezeway between the cafeteria and gym, library or restrooms.
- ◆ Possibly every year have a beautification project but do not have it be a major fundraiser.

The conversation ended with the suggestion to discuss the tile for next year and talk with Vickie, take a tour of the school to determine possible areas the tile could go. For this year let's pursue the Comedy Club since it is not too intensive. Clair Sawin stepped up to chair the Comedy Club Night.

Volunteer Coordinator

Catie Stedman is happy to report we have approximately 2920 volunteer hours logged in so far, with 440 volunteers on file. Make sure you log in all your hours worked, including the ones at home.

Catie sent out a general email regarding the volunteers for the Holiday Bazaar/Winter Wonderland. The email highlighted that there were two-hour shifts available for people to complete their two-hour power commitment.

Guest Speaker – Rob Saxton

Rob Saxton arrived, he first wanted to thank the PSO for their contribution and all the time and effort put in to assist the school. Also, a thank you for passing the Tigard local option in the election earlier this month. The local option is 7% of the school budget for the year, this is approx. 85 teachers district wide, approximately 3 teachers at MW. The Levy will last through 2015.

Currently they are implementing the visioning process finalized last year. The main point is that "Every student thrives in school and graduates prepared to succeed". The goals from the visioning process will be turned into a strategic plan for specific activities that will be implemented to make them happen. One question is how to measure these specific activities? One option is benchmark tests. Teachers could measure how much growth kids have each year, the measurement is growth and not level since not all kids are at the same level in all subjects.

The process confirmed that people want firm basics, reading, writing, math and communication. The consensus was also that more options should be offered at the high school level. This is different for different people, it could be more electives at that level, it could mean a different experience like magnet schools (i.e. Beaverton district). They are looking into additional options to offer to kids. Finally, a concern was not enough time spent at school, they are looking at the options to create more time for kids to go to school, some cost, and some do not.

Reading – TTSD uses direct instruction and phonics in their elementary program. The theory is that young children need direct instruction that over time transfers through to whole language instruction.

Math – this year they are choosing a new curriculum at the elementary level. He wants more uniformity throughout the district. The teachers wrote a position paper with recommendations for the program. They are going to look at the texts and get feedback and agreement from teachers and parents throughout the district. There are two different theories regarding teaching math. The first is direct instruction, which is very specific. The second is constructivism which some constructs how math works, the process. TTSD will stick close to the direct instruction at the elementary level according to the position paper. At the secondary level 6th-12th grade the trend shifts toward constructivism and is in the middle between the two methods. Constructivism helps to answer the why, not just the how to do it but also why we do it. The US is ranked 23 in the world in math education.

Budget – In consideration of the economy, there are some concerns with the budget. There are two ways to get money, property taxes, which are consistent, and income tax which is very volatile. K-12 Education is 42% of the state budget. The state expects to be about 500 million short this year, this is about 218 million for the schools. The effect on TTSD is that we need to save about 2 million dollars this year. The Governor will finalize the budget by December 1. TTSD does have some funds set aside, a 5% “rainy day” fund, another 5% in savings and an additional 2.5 million set aside. All told, there is about 11 million in savings. Previously the state has said they would set aside funds to avoid a budget crunch in a tough economy, however this has not yet happened.

Regarding the math program – Parents want a chance to preview the program. There are some real concerns by parents regarding the math program implemented by the 6-12th grades this year. Rob assured that parents will have time and input on the elementary program to be implemented next year. The decision will be made by March and the program will be implemented next school year.

Foreign language at the elementary level was another vision goal and is being worked on. Metzger is considering a dual language immersion program.

There was the question about growth in the district and adding schools. The district as a whole has grown about 1.5% this year. TTSD does own property on the west side of Bull Mountain and they are considering either a K-8 or an elementary and middle school on the property. The high school is not growing as fast, only about .25% a year. The property is not big enough for a high school which needs about 50 acres and 80 million dollars. At some point we will have to build up or build another high school.

There were no additional questions and Rob Saxton ended his presentation.

Principals Report

Vickie wanted to report on the math adoption process from the Mary Woodward perspective. Rossio and Dickenson are the two MW teachers on the math program adoption committee. Nothing has come back to the schools yet regarding this process. The April inservice date is going to be devoted to the new curriculum. We will have solid info on the program by spring. Currently K-2 is direct instruction and in grades 3-5 they start to add in constructivism. Children need both solid math facts with other tools to assist in problem solving. MW will stay mixed between the programs.

MW was one of the last schools to implement “Walk to Read” and they are considering “Walk to Math” This has both benefits and drawbacks. Teachers are protective of their community of learners. Children all need to have certain skills at certain grades and need a standard set of goals at each grade. The suggestion was to use parents to assist with math as they do with reading.

The food basket need is very high this year. Proceeds from movie night were donated to purchase perishables for the baskets. There will be a giving tree with tags on it to buy a gift for children in need. It will go to MW families. Approximately 20 children are in the program this year.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50. There is no meeting scheduled for December.

