

PSO Meeting  
November 18, 2013  
Mary Woodward, Room 3, 8:30 a.m.

Board Members: Karen Emerson, Judy Swiger, Cheryl Payne, Jill Weinstein

Karen welcomes everyone and calls the meeting to order.

September 16, 2013 Minutes reviewed unanimously approved.

Special meeting for RISO purchase decision minutes reviewed and approved unanimously.

Volunteer Coordinator:

This year there were 1,233 volunteer hours recorded for the month of October and last year we had 1,376.

The difference is probably due to Jog-a-thon being in October last year and September this year.

Keep logging volunteer minutes. There was a recommendation to remind people to log hours on the computer from home.

Treasurer Report:

Jog-a-thon has currently brought in \$29,000 and we are hoping it will bring in another thousand once the corporate matches are all in. They came in \$1.77 below budget.

Missoula Children's Theatre made a \$775 profit.

eScrip no longer accepting credit cards so our funds may go down there.

RISO has been purchased for \$2,295 and that includes set-up and training.

All of the E\*Trade money except for \$500 will be moved into checking. The \$500 will be kept in the E\*Trade account so it can remain open.

There is a column for the recommended budget for this year. There is a 3% increase for instructional assistants and bus fund due to inflation.

There was a recommendation to keep carnival budget at \$8000 instead of making it \$10,000. With the change from \$10,000 to \$8,000 for the carnival, the budget passed unanimously.

The RISO has been delivered. The last one lasted 10 years. Judy and Lindsay have been trained and we need to ask them to change the ink drums and master paper so it stays in good working order. There is now a log in sheet to use when making copies so we can keep track of how many copies PSO makes. Teachers and parents are very happy we have a new RISO. It is still encouraged to make use of the print shop if possible.

New playground equipment will be the next research project.

New Business:

The Junk Food Walk at the carnival has been brought up as a concern due to issues of health and what it teaches our kids about healthy eating habits. This is not the first time there has been concern and it is something the carnival committee discusses every year. The general feeling among the parents in attendance is the carnival is a special occasion and only happens once a year. It is also one of the more popular booths. Bridgeport Elementary had one and it was taken away due the same health concerns. It turned out to be a

huge controversy, although Mr. Nihill said he would be supportive with whatever was decided. Ideas to make changes to the booth are: renaming it, or giving kids the option of junk food or a ticket to be spent at the prize table. It was decided to keep the booth and each family needs to handle it within the family and tell their child if participating in this is an option, just as we do when we make the decision to buy or not buy the cotton candy, son-cone, etc, that is also available at the carnival.

Is it possible to give assistance for first and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and would it make a difference? There is some reserve cash in the budget; we are considering providing more assistants for first and third grade. The assistants help bring down numbers in the class room and facilitate the Walk to Read program. Any kind of classified help for teachers is huge, especially in math and reading. Some assistants are already putting in extra time but we cannot pay them any more than a predetermined number of hours because it needs to stay equitable between the schools. We will not get the extra funding the government has come up with until next year and it will go to reducing class sizes. Next year is our last year for half day Kindergarten, which will possibly bring up kinder numbers, so we will need more kindergarten classrooms. Currently, first grade needs more help than third. The school cannot add hours to someone already in place, but we would be allowed to hire a parent. We could look for a parent who would be willing to volunteer before hiring someone for a paid position. It would just be a one year commitment of 1-1.5 hours. We need to check with teachers to see if they are open to the extra help. There was a unanimous show of hands from the attending PSO members showing an interest in finding a way to give the teachers more support in their classrooms.

Ambassador report: All 5<sup>th</sup> graders are ambassadors so we no longer need an ambassador and an end of the year party for 5<sup>th</sup> grade; it will just be one party. We have moved to portables 1&2 for meetings and storing items collected. So far this year, we have held a can drive, helped out at the Burgerville fundraiser, and helped clean up yards in King City. The communication team can be used by any committee in the school even if it not an ambassador related activity. In November, the ambassadors will be focusing on the food drive and Thanksgiving baskets. The food we collect will be going to our local Tigard Food Bank. In December, we will be helping out at the Holiday Bazaar, running an "Elf Me" photo opportunity from 10-2. We are also partnering with NW Children's Outreach for a toy drive. The kids are giving up recesses to help out and taking on a lot of responsibility. They are available to help out in any school event that needs extra help. Let us know and we can get kids signed up. A parent asked Mr. Nihill if we are doing anything to support the Philippines in their natural disaster. Samaritan Purse might be an organization to go through to help support the Philippines. Another idea for ambassadors is to work the blood drive. There was a question if we are going to do the "Giving Tree", like we have done in past years, to help support families in our school. The district has decided to discontinue the "Giving Tree", due to a breach in confidentiality and because it put a big load on the counselors.

Jog-a-thon: The timing of having it the last Friday in September, rather than the first Friday in October was due to the sight and hearing testing, but it did put a lot of pressure on the committee. They said it is easier to pull off when they have that extra week to prepare.

Art Literacy: All of the classes are almost done will Manet, Al A Prima Pumpkins. January will be aboriginal art and the February artist will be Johnathan Green. Art in the Burbs money has been allocated and they will give the info to Mr. Nihill. Hopefully those funds will buy new display boards for the gallery scheduled for the second week of May.

Book Fair: It was a great success. We hit the 5% gain to get the 5% in scholastic dollars, so we were able to get \$2500 to spend on library ready books. We had the same issue of kids getting to class late in the morning and we had a couple kids miss the bus because they were busy shopping. We need to look at that for next year.

Scrip: There is an order due today. Dec 9 and 16 have been added as order dates. There is a Chinook Book full of coupons to look at. PSO gets half of the Chinook Book proceeds. This week only, if you purchase a \$50 Columbia gift card, you get an employee store pass.

Specialty & Family Events: We made \$385 at Burgerville, \$40 at Goody's and \$129 at Valley Cinemas. We are still waiting to hear if we won the candy drive. We are very close to being in first place, which would bring in a total of \$815. Alberta Rider still has more candy to turn in. Next year we are going to make a goal of 500 lbs. of candy and make it a competition. So far we have earned \$596. BJ Willy's is the next event on December 2<sup>nd</sup>; it is an all day event and they give us 20% of their profits, but you need to bring in the flyer. Rocket Fizz and Baja Fresh are scheduled for January. They are checking to see if Tigard Cinemas will donate popcorn again this year for movie night. We still have not heard anything from McMenamins yet, they are booked for this year so it wouldn't be until spring.

Box Tops/Labels: We have collected over 5400 box tops and 3600 labels.

Science Fair: The assembly in November was awesome. Two third grade classes did the sling shot experiment and a bridge building activity with 4<sup>th</sup> graders. There are only 20 applications so far. They have asked the teachers to remind the kids that applications will be collected through the week. It is possible the low turnout is due to the timing and we should look at making it not during the holidays next year, while keeping it from conflicting with Biography and Culture Fair.

Staff Appreciation: Sending cookies home with the teachers is coming up in December.

Yearbook: The papers for the cover competition are coming in.

Principal's Report: Thanks for the book fair; it brought in great numbers! There has been one Common Core night and 7 parents attended. The one scheduled here tomorrow has been cancelled, but there will be more sponsored by the district. For the in-service day, all of the teachers met at Tigard H.S., focusing on teams working together with their instruction. The Dec. 3rd in-service will focus on Journeys and how the new adoption is going and making it align with the new Common Core. The district is looking at creating a new report card that will align with the Common Core and this will be at every grade level. All districts need to make sure the reports do not cross classroom behavior with academic behavior.

President's Report: Thanks to all for attending, sorry they have been going long, but the communication is important.

New, New Business: Student Directory will be coming out possibly with some errors. We need to address if the directory will be continued at another meeting.

For the good of the order: As committee chairs move on, it might be a good idea to set up a Google account with all of the info. That way, as committees get new chairs all of the information will be easy to access.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Holiday Bazaar Addendum: All 47 vendor spots have been filled. They will be set up in the gymnasium where there is more space. This year they will need to bring their own tables, risers, rolling racks and backdrops so they can customize their product displays, hopefully increasing their sales. Also new this year, there will also be 4-5 food vendors in the cafeteria.