

PSO Meeting
September 17, 2012
Mary Woodward Cafeteria 8:30 am

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

Erin gave welcomes to all and to Jerry Nihill as new principal.

Nominations for Karen Emerson as President Elect, Judy Swiger as Secretary and Jill Weinstein as Volunteer Coordinator. Nominations seconded and Karen, Judy and Jill were voted into office.

May 14, 2012 Minutes reviewed and approved.

Treasurer Report:

Cheryl explained the proposed budget by category. Last years' income exceeded projections, so PSO has an extra \$7000 to allocate. Suggestions were library discretionary fund (subscriptions renewals to the 4 most popular kids magazines, binding equipment, recognition medals for students who complete their summer reading goals) cultural fair budget, replacing/repairing some of the older playground equipment, replacing/repairing items in the garden that are in disrepair, purchase scooters for P.E. These are things we need to think about, discuss and vote on at a later date.

Dance Lessons for the 5th graders was addressed. It was a great experience last year, but things we need to consider are: teachers lose a lot of instructional time, where do we get the funding, would need a lot of help from the P.E. and Music teachers, and we need a volunteer to chair the committee. It has been tabled for the October agenda so we can get more information.

Cheryl pointed out various categories that come in under budget, it was noted that the Enrichment category came in significantly under budget last year.

More money is being allocated to yearbook due to the increased number ordered/sold.

Culture Fair has been added into the PSO budget this year.

The following events all earned more money than they spent: Family Events, Spring Carnival, Holiday Bazaar, and Missoula Children's Theatre.

As a nonprofit organization we are limited to the amount of fundraising we are allowed to do. It was discussed, that the Carnival (this currently has no one to chair it) possibly become more of a fundraiser in place of the Spring Auction (as there is no one who has come forward to be the committee chair) we will need to review the bylaws for what the limit is for the amount of fundraising allowed to stay tax exempt. There is a possibility we will not do a Spring Fundraiser, as there are no committee chairs, or make it an every other year event or put on a smaller version of the event where we do a dinner at the school with the class baskets and a few other items. If there is no Spring Auction we need to figure out other ways to make up for the deficit. This has been tabled for the October agenda.

Ice Cream Social:

It went very smoothly and was well under budget. This event needs someone to chair it for next year.

Box Tops/Labels/Scrip:

The first box top contest goes Oct 1st –Dec 7th. Each teacher has an envelope in their room for collection. The top 3 classrooms will be awarded a doughnut party.

The Safeway card needs to be registered every August for the school to get credit through the eScrip Program.

The labels program offers a bonus collection sheet. For every 10 labels Karen puts onto one sheet of paper, we get 100 pts. Currently we have a balance of 63,782 points to be spent on merchandise for the school. Karen called about the broken jump ropes, previously ordered and they have given us a credit.

The Scrip information sheet, attached to the order form has already been sent home. Today is the first due date to place your order with 9/21 being the pick-up date. The next collection date is 10/1, with the pick-up date on 10/5. New this year, instead of just a

cash or check form of payment you will be able to pay for scrip with a credit card through pay pal. This form of payment does include a 2.9% fee on the amount of your purchase.

Karen will send home information regarding all of these programs at Back-To-School Night. It was also mentioned that the information should be put on the PSO website.

Health Screening:

The date has been changed to Thursday, Oct. 4th. The training for administering the tests starts at 8:15 and lasts about 10-15 minutes. To get all of the classes through the health screenings will take most of the day. We need 20 volunteers. Lunch will be provided. Thanks to the Lions Club for sponsoring this event.

Book Fair:

Books can be purchased before and after school October 22-26 and also during conferences. Kids will be able to spend Eagle Bucks they earn through Jog-A-Thon. Profits earned from this event will go to the library for the purchase of new books. Kids get a preview of the fair on Monday the 22nd. We need volunteers for decorations and set up on Friday, October 19th from 12:00-2:00. We need volunteer cashiers during the week of the fair and volunteers to pack up books and put the library back on order on Friday, October 26th from 2:00-4:00.

Volunteer Coordinator:

Last year Mary Woodward volunteers logged in 7,920 hours. A lot of people forget to log in their hours on the computer for work they do at home, so try and remember to do that when you are at the school. Don't forget to log into the computer in the office, as it helps us keep track of volunteer hours for us and the district and it helps the office staff know who is at the school and where they might be.

We are looking for a volunteer to chair the Staff Appreciation committee. This person would coordinate lunches for conferences, staff appreciation week, Valentines, and birthdays for the teachers. This is easier if there are two people (co-chairs). The lunches for conferences are not a difficult part of the job, as a lot of parents volunteer to bring food in; it is just sending out the request and decorating the teacher lounge.

We also need chairs for the Spring Fundraiser and carnival; these committees are best run with two co-chairs. Ice Cream Social also has a vacancy for the next school year (2013-2014).

Shaylene Haswarey has kindly volunteered to chair the Enrichment Program.

Back- To-School Night will have sign-up sheets in class rooms so look for those for volunteer opportunities.

Jog-A-Thon:

Envelopes will be going home this Friday. The pledge goal we would like the kids to try and raise has been increased to \$80 this year to help offset the possible lack of income if there is no Spring Fundraiser. The kick off assembly will be on Friday. Back-To-School Night will have sign-up sheets if you would like to volunteer. Kids will again earn Eagle Bucks that can be spent at book fair.

Volunteers needed: 2 for course set up at 8:20, involving taking tables to field putting table clothes on them along with the cups and water; 2 for clean up at 1:30; unspecified number of field runners to serve popsicles and refill water coolers. Lunch will be provided for all day volunteers.

Art Literacy:

Corina Torseth is welcomed as a new committee member. We have an onsite kiln and are looking forward to using it with a clay project. Also new this year, Art Lit. will have their own classroom inside the school. They will be using Mrs. McComb's last year room. The meetings this year will be on Tuesdays, once a month. The first training meeting will be on October 2nd; this is a fast turnaround, as Back-To-School Night is less than a week before. Gallery dates have been changed to May 13th-24th. Set up will be on the 10th.

Missoula Children's Theatre:

Co- Chairs for this were not in attendance. We will get an update at next meeting.

Specialty Fundraiser: The first specialty fundraiser will be held at Burgerville, Monday, October 1st, from 5:00-8:00pm. They want us to have 2-4 people to help serve food and talk up the school. They are hoping we will bring in 40 people an hour. Mary Woodward will receive 10% of all revenue during that time period from everyone (not just Mary Woodward families) that comes in. People do

not have to mention Mary Woodward for us to get the 10%. Trissa will send reminders of the event by electronic email and a hard copy will be sent home with students.

Valley Theatre is still doing family matinees and they will be \$10 this year. They are Saturdays through Tuesdays. Last year they raised about \$200.

Trissa is working to have a Piccolo Mondo event in December. Other possible places she will check into are: Red Robin, California Pizza Kitchen, McMenamans, and Mango Tango. It was suggested by a parent to look into McDonalds, where the teachers take orders and serve the food. Jerry will see if there is interest.

Principal's Report:

There is a TAG parent open house tomorrow night at 6:30.

Back-To-School Night is on September 26. There will be 2 presentations, like last year, one from 7:00-7:30pm and one from 7:40-8:10.

There is one more parent position open on site council.

The district has requested that anyone purchasing lanyards for the kids, need to be the breakaway style for safety purposes.

Parents asked if the 5th grade was allowed to have a graduation ceremony. Jerry said the district has requested there be no formal graduation but it is okay to have a party or do some sort of recognition.

Jerry thanked the PSO for all of the support it provides the school and how evident that support is in the classrooms. If anyone has questions, please contact him.

President Report:

It was brought up that Facebook might be a good way to get information out to more people. Parents thought it would be helpful and an easy avenue to get updates and school information. There was a comment about making sure people knew it was available to everyone and not an inclusive thing. There was also concern about it being a public site and what kind of information should be on it and what kind of precautions needs to be addressed for cyber safety, confidentiality with pictures, names etc. Overall people seemed to think it may be more successful way of getting people to read information and get updates.

New Business:

Jennine Follette should be recognized on the PSO committee list.

Cultural Fair needs more support and possibly make it a bigger event. This may need to be a new PSO committee. It is for everybody, not just people who have lived in another country.

Caring Closet will have a can & bottle drive as a fundraiser at Mary Woodward on October 24th. They will only have one can & bottle drive this year. They will have a collection station set up at the entrance to the school garden so people can do a drive by drop off. They are suggesting that kids and parents collect cans and bottles from neighbors to increase funds raised.

Taking home addresses out of the Student Directory was suggested and adding email addresses. Parents want to keep the home address and add the email addresses. It was also suggested to have the directory online, but there was concern on how make it secure.

The Library needs volunteers it has people signed up on a Google doc. Parents who want to volunteer with the library need to work with their kids' teacher, as they have picked their library schedule already. There will be training after this meeting and a tour of library.

Email Judy Swiger or Erin Farquhar if you want new business added to agenda.

The next PSO meeting is on October 8th, at 6:30pm in the library.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.