

## **Oregon PTO Meeting**

February 3, 2004

6:30 P.M.

Minutes

**Attendance:** Kris Pearson, Jamie Okonek, Peggy Bakken, Janine Bessemer, Mary Jo Romero, Britney Smith, Donna Prew, Jane Peschel, Amy Hermus, Carrie Janes, Debbie Fischer, Raandi Schmidt, and Denise Anderson.

### **Secretary Report**

Mary Jo Romero made a motion to approve the January Minutes; Janine Bessemer seconded. Approved.

### **Treasurers Report**

Jamie Okonek reported that she applied for and received a State of Wisconsin tax-exempt number for the PTO. If you need to make purchases for the PTO, use this number instead of the school's number to save on sales tax. If you need the number, contact Jamie at *jamokonek@sbcglobal.net*

Jamie talked to the person who wrote an NSF check for the fall fundraiser, and said she feels confident it will be paid. If she doesn't receive the money in five days, she'll turn it over to the Oregon Police.

The PTO received a \$250 refund for an Assembly last year that was not what the group promised.

Jamie talked to the Bank of Oregon. They offered to donate \$1 to the PTO anytime a customer ordered Oregon Panther checks for their account. Unfortunately, there was a catch – the bank wanted the names and phone numbers of all PTO members. Jamie would not provide this information. The bank will still honor its offer to give \$1 for people who order Panther checks.

Jamie Okonek made a motion to refund \$41 in photo processing expenses from the PVE Memory Book. Amy Hermus seconded; approved.

In April, we will discuss the 2004-05 budget.

LifeTouch, the company that took school pictures, sent a check for \$709.

Britney Smith made a motion to approve the February Treasurer's Report; Amy Hermus seconded. Approved.

### **Fund Raising**

Donna Prew reported that when she talked to Bergman Pharmacy again about selling the PTO cookbook at their store, they wanted more than \$1 per book sold as previously reported; they want to split it 50/50. Donna is talking to other shops in town about selling

the cookbook. The owner of the Firefly offered to sell the cookbooks for no share of the revenue. Donna will also talk to Bill's. Donna said people were starting to enter recipes over the web site (entry dates are February 1-15).

The School District approved a Spring sale of Dutch Mills bulbs. Sales materials will go out to students in March. If students collect money when the order is taken, we receive a cash incentive. Donna may also sell bulbs again in the fall instead of gift-wrap, depending on how well this sale goes.

Reminder – the March meeting will be devoted to Fund Raising. We encourage everyone to come and brainstorm.

### **Social**

Because there are an unusually large number of events in the first two weeks of March, Social will only host one teacher potluck during Parent/Teacher conferences, the evening of March 11.

### **Publicity**

February newsletter items are due on 2/11. If you want a notice in the school newsletters this month, please let Peggy Bakken know by the end of this week (2/6).

Jane Peschel suggested that instead of sending out fliers to all students, we could include them in the school newsletters as a way to save printing costs and reach families.

### **Artist in Residence**

Jane Peschel said the PVE Artist in Residence, Susan Hulsether, went very well. She is looking for ideas for next year's program.

### **Art Fair**

Raandi Schmidt is in the creative stage of planning for this year's Art Fair. She's considering including more dance this year, and is trying to arrange a variety of dancers, including Hmong, Irish, and Indian. In addition, she is talking to Villari's about doing a demonstration.

The committee is considering holding the reception halfway through the Fair this year.

Registration forms have been sent out and are due back in March. She will forward a copy to Mike Kiffel to put on the web.

### **Science Fair**

Kris Pearson reports that work on the Science Fair is in high gear. Approximately 225 students have signed up for individual and class projects.

The committee selected 3 winners for the logo contest – they will merge three designs into one. The logo will be used on buttons & ribbons, as well as signs and printed material.

Because the Fair is on a Saturday this year and there's more time, Kris has arranged for a number of demonstrations, including: UW Space Place will set up telescopes outside; a UW professor who develops vaccines using chicken embryos will bring in chicken eggs for kids to view through microscopes; OHS students will demonstrate how to extract DNA from wheat germ; other OHS displays are also possible. Because of the extra demonstrations, a lot of volunteers are needed.

### **Assemblies**

UW Professor Dr. Shakashiri conducted a science assembly on January 16.

On March 29, Chinese dancers will perform.

On April 30, Novel Ideas will present stories written by students at NKE & PVE.

### **New Business**

*PTO Today Conference:* Donna Prew is planning to attend the "PTO Today" conference in Chicago for one day, either April 19 or 20. If several people attend, there is a price break (\$39/person; with 4 \$35/person; with 6 \$35/person and one attends free). Kris Pearson suggested the PTO reimburse the conference fee for any Oregon PTO members who attend; Amy Hermus suggested we also pay mileage; Jane Peschel suggested using the Oregon School District policy to reimburse for mileage and gas. Kris Pearson made a motion to reimburse conference fees, mileage and gas; Mary Jo Romero seconded. Approved. If you would like to attend, contact Donna Prew at 835-0555.

*English as Second Language (ESL) at PVE:* Denise Anderson, ESL teacher at PVE, attended to discuss ways the PTO could reach out to families in the community whose children attend Oregon schools. Currently, there are approximately 20 families at PVE who do not speak English. She would like them to feel more welcome and included in school events. PVE has an educational assistant on staff that is fluent in Spanish who can translate PTO materials for these families. From now on, the PTO will send materials to her for translation, including all materials distributed during Registration in the fall. It was also suggested that on the PTO Volunteer form, we recruit volunteers who are bi-lingual to work with these families. Amy Hermus suggested creating a resource guide for these families. There are a number of Hmong students at PVE, and Jane Peschel discussed taking classes with these students to the new Hmong Exhibit at the Madison Children's Museum. The Children's Museum can only handle one class at a time. Leasing a bus to Madison costs \$65 per round trip. Donna Prew made a motion to send two or more classes from PVE to the Children's Museum, using money from the Teacher Requests budget; Amy Hermus seconded. Approved.

**Adjourned:** 7:50 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 p.m. at NKE Library