

Oregon PTO Meeting

January 4, 2005

6:30 P.M.

Minutes

Attendance: Kris Pearson, Donna Prew, Peggy Bakken, Donna Wright, Teri Mills, Debbie Fischer, Patty Tucker, Kristi Heming, Nicolette Timberlake, Katie Lindell, Sandy Knobel, Mary Gooze, Janine Bessemer, Jeanie Joswig, Amy Miller, and Courtney Odorico.

Secretary Report

Corrections to November Minutes:

- Add Nicolette Timberlake to the Attendance list.
- Under Family Fun Night, Eugsters charged the PTO for 300 attendees, not the a pre-arranged guarantee of 450 for the Barn Dance.
- Sue Hulsether's name was misspelled in the Artist in Residence section.

Janine made a motion to approve the corrected November Minutes; Nicolette seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Penny Drive: Donna Prew donated \$100 from the Cash Reserve fund on behalf of the PTO to the NKE and PVE school penny drives. The money raised by the penny drive was donated to Family's First, an organization run by Joe Sullivan to help families in need. Teri Mills suggested making a donation to Families First a line item in the PTO budget next year.

CD: Donna moved \$15,000 to a CD earning 2.3%

2003-04 Expenditures: Money for expenditures approved in 2003-04 that were not submitted by the end of the fiscal year were carried forward in this year's Cash Reserve fund. \$5,000 in 2003-04 expenditures were recently submitted and \$2,100 remains.

Cookbooks: Less than half a box of cookbooks remain.

Fall Extravaganza: Jeanie Joswig reported that the Fall Extravaganza was a big success. The PTO received \$600 from the event. Jeanie thanked all PTO members who helped.

Kristi Heming made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; Mary Gooze seconded. Approved.

Fund Raising

Kristy Heming asked for input on the Spring Run Fund Raiser approved last April during the Fund Raising brainstorming session. The group agreed that all decisions related to the event were up to the Fund Raising committee, including whether or not to hold the event. Amy Miller offered to talk to Doug DeBroux, OHS cross country coach and

organizer of the annual Oregon Fun Run for ideas about coordinating this kind of event. Amy will get back to Fund Raising.

Amy Miller also suggested that if the PTO holds the Fun Run, the proceeds be earmarked for a group like Joe Sullivan's Neighbors in Need of Assistance (NINA). Janine Bessemer added that she would prefer to see money raised go to a special program, like NINA, instead of creating a new line item. Several people commented that it's good for kids and families to see their money going directly to a worthy cause in the community.

Family Fun Night

Kristy Heming asked if she should notify Geckler to schedule the inflatables for Family Fun Night on June 2. Kris Pearson asked her to get input from Amy Hermus.

Operation Joy

Kristy Heming reported that Operation Joy went very smoothly. The few leftover toys were donated to Toys for Tots. Leftover children's outerwear was given to the schools to use for children who don't have warm clothing. Other leftover clothing items were donated to St. Vincent's.

Publicity

Katie Grady wasn't able to attend, but on her behalf, Kris Pearson announced that Katie and her family are moving. Because her children will be attending Brooklyn Elementary School, she will not be part of the Oregon PTO next year.

Artist in Residence

Teri Mills is still working out the details for the NKE Artist in Residence. PVE Artist in Residence, Sue Hulsether, led a school dance in December.

Art Fair

Courtney Odorico reported that she is starting to meet with committee members to organize the event. Fliers will go home to students this month.

Science Fair

Nicolette reported that fliers and registration materials are going home with students this week. The theme is "Science is Elementary," and the event will be held Saturday, March 12 from 3-6 p.m.

Assemblies

Deb Fischer reported that the Mexican Dancers Assembly was wonderful (despite the dancers getting lost and starting late). Mad Hatters are scheduled for January 21.

New Business

PTO Today Conference: Kris Pearson announced that the PTO Today Conference will be held May 10 in Chicago. The PTO will pay registration fees and mileage for two people to attend. Contact Kris if you're interested in attending.

Puzzle Die Cuts: Deb Fischer made a request for a set of four puzzle-shaped die cuts. The set would be available to all teachers and grade levels at NKE. Art Teacher Don Wachter would like to use them to turn children's artwork into puzzles. The set costs \$280. Teri Mills made a motion to buy a set for each school. Fund Raising co-chair Patty Tucker mentioned that Geckler had offered a die cut as a sign-on bonus. If Geckler can provide the same dies that Deb requested, Patty will get them. Kris Pearson made a motion for \$560 plus shipping expenses from Staff Requests to purchase two sets of the puzzle-shaped die cuts. Katie Lindell seconded the motion. Approved.

Articles of Incorporation

Donna Prew is working with Madison attorney Melissa Auchard Scholz from LaFollette Godfrey & Kahn on a consultation basis to resolve the issue of the PTO's non-profit status. The attorney submitted several questions that Donna brought before the group to discuss (see number paragraphs below). The group discussion and decision follows each question. (A copy of the "Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation" is attached to the Minutes.)

1) Are there any other PTOs for Oregon schools (i.e., is there the potential for any confusion with the name Oregon PTO, as opposed to the schools' names).

A. No. We have held the name Oregon PTO since the early 1970s. If a new PTO were to form in the district, Teri Mills said it's likely they would use the school name in their title. Donna Prew requested that the name not be changed because of all the legal documents already in place, like the ESI and bank accounts.

2) I copied the purpose statement from the original articles. Please let me know if that statement has been changed.

A. Under Article 3 "Purposes," section 3.1, change "training" to "education." The amended section will read:

The Corporation is created to promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, and community and to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of the child.

Under Article 6 Board of Directors, the board will be defined as the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The amended section will read:

The affairs of the Corporation will be managed by a board of directors, whose duties are set forth in the bylaws. The board of directors is defined as the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The method of electing directors of the Corporation is stated in the bylaws of the Corporation. The number of directors shall be fixed by the bylaws of the Corporation, but the number of directors shall not be fewer than three.

3) The only substantive change from your original articles is the inclusion of Article 7 regarding written consent. This provision allows the members or directors to act in writing in lieu of a meeting. It is particularly useful for the Board of Directors. This provision could be changed to apply only to the Board if you wanted. The details of how

these written consents would work would need to be added to the bylaws. (I could easily drop in that language).

A. The Board occasionally decides matters between meetings by email. Donna will clarify whether email is legal written material and whether we should add "email" to the definition of writing in the Articles.

4) As we discussed regarding the bylaws, I need to hear back from you on how you want to define members. Right now it reads "any parent, teacher, or administrator of Oregon School District may become a member of this organization upon the payment of dues." I know that the dues part should be dropped. Do you want any further defining terms, such as any parent with a child at or entering the two relevant elementary schools. I am not suggesting that you should limit it in any way, just wanted to probe if there are any issues about who controls the organization.

A. Members should be defined as "Parents, Staff or Administrators at Prairie View Elementary School or Netherwood Knoll Elementary School." Decision-making authority should reside with people affiliated with each school, and not be open to everyone in the school district. Teri Mills pointed out that, historically, this has not been an issue. Change "Teacher" to "Staff." Parents will be defined as parents of incoming and existing students at either school.

Teri Mills requested an edited version of the Articles be sent out prior to the February meeting so everyone has an opportunity to review the document and suggest additional changes. In particular, she would like to change the wording of Section 4.2 which currently states: "No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation." We as a PTO may wish to influence legislation in light of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

You will note that these articles of incorporation and any amendments to the bylaws need to be amended by a vote of 2/3rds of the members present at a meeting. They must receive 15 days notice of these proposed changes.

Next Steps: The PTO decided that in order to be sure as many people as possible have the opportunity to provide input, we will vote on the changes at two successive meetings. Changes need to be approved by a two-thirds majority, defined as two-thirds of the people attending the meetings. An edited version of the Articles are attached to the Minutes for review. All questions should be directed to Kris Pearson or Donna Prew.

Adjourned: 8:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 1, 2005