

Oregon PTO Meeting

February 7, 2006

Minutes

Attendance Meeting: Peggy Bakken, Jeannine Zimmerschied, Cathy Kooistra, Amy Hermus, Teri Mills, Elizabeth Sailor, Patty Fitzgerald, Julie Wulff, Mary Gooze, Beth Duvick, Carrie Janes, Elaine Brickley, Donna Prew, Mary Jo Romero

Secretary's Report

No corrections.

Jeannine Zimmerschied made a motion to approve, seconded by Beth Duvick. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

Donna Prew reported that the savings account balance is \$15,140.99. Total cash assets are \$59,765.22. This amount includes approximately \$20,000 to be used for the 2006-2007 budget.

Five families have requested the \$25 reimbursement for the tennis shoes lost during Operation Joy.

Beth Sailor made a motion to approve the treasurer's report; Carrie Janes seconded. Approved.

Staff Requests

Julie Wulff presented the PVE Kindergarten teacher's request for \$500. They would like to purchase leveled/guided reading books. One class does not have any leveled books that can be taken home. Some books are currently available but not enough for a whole class. The Kindergarten students have a wide range of reading abilities. The selected books will compliment the books that the first grade will purchase.

Amy Hermus is concerned about the number of kids that are struggling within the current reading approach. She asked if there are other efforts or programs being explored to support these students. The phonics based Reading Rocks pull out program is offered in the spring to some 1st and 2nd grade students. This program is also available, by invitation, during summer school. Amy stated that she believes options other than leveled books need to be considered and offered to the students starting in Kindergarten. Peggy Bakken is concerned that PTO is being asked to make curriculum decisions. Teri Mills suggested that the school reading specialists would be able to provide information regarding what PTO funds have supported.

Mary Gooze requested funds to cover bus transportation to Sienna Crest for her 4th grade class and Nancy Johnson's 2nd grade class. Their students have been corresponding with residents at Sienna Crest through cards, letters and other activities. The trip would allow the students and residents to meet and spend some time together. Donna Prew informed us that a bus would cost \$55 plus \$10 per hour. She indicated that the funds could come from the RCI transitional bus budget of \$400.

Beth Duvick has been providing fresh fruit and other special snacks for her class on a regular basis. She made a request for \$150 to help cover the cost.

Currently, PVE has \$1725 available in staff requests. Cathy Kooistra said that next year they will work to prioritize the requests across the grades.

Committee Reports

Fund Raising

Peggy Bakken reported that Michelle Lawry and Katie Lindell have organized the school supply packages that will be available for purchase at school registration. PTO is offering this as a convenience and not a fund raising opportunity. The cost of the packages will be rounded to the nearest dollar with no additional fee. Informational letters will go home to parents in March. Orders will need to be placed this spring. PTO will purchase extra packages to have available for students in need. Teri Mills recommended consulting Joe Sullivan, the school secretaries, and teachers regarding the quantity needed.

Art Fair

Due to logistical considerations, the committee has decided that the fair will be held at Netherwood Knoll again this year. The Art Fair logo will be selected on February 14. The PTO volunteer room parents will be contacted about helping with classroom projects. Courtney Odorico would like to purchase a large fiberglass panther. The plan is to have the students and their families decorate it during the fair using a special paint. The completed piece will be sealed and displayed outside. Teri Mills suggested that Marilea Groves be contacted about helping to manage the decorating phase.

Assemblies

Jane Killerlain received many negative teacher reviews of Reid Miller's January assembly. Mary Jo Romero sent Mr. Miller a follow up letter regarding the overall poor quality of his performance. The MadHatter assembly was a big success. The March 3 assembly will be an electrical safety program presented to each grade by a retired Alliant Energy lineman.

Social

The conference night dinner for Netherwood is scheduled for Thursday, February 16.

Old Business

No volunteers came forward to organize a Silent Auction so the idea will be tabled for now.

Tom Fischer will be submitting a request for \$1000 per school to maintain equipment and playground area. The money may come out of PTO cash reserves. There was discussion concerning whether PTO wants to fund this type of expense in the future or if maintenance costs should come from the school budget.

New Business

Teri Mills and Carrie Janes presented information regarding the playground needs of the early childhood program. They want to purchase equipment that is appropriate for small children (3-4 years old) and configured to be wheelchair and handicap accessible. Other preschool and daycare programs would benefit from this playground upgrade. The cost is estimated at \$15,612. They are requesting seed money to get the project started. This amount will be discussed at the next meeting.

Staff requests were reviewed.

Donna Prew proposed that up to \$100 be taken from the RCI transitional bus budget to fund Mary Gooze. Beth Sailor made a motion to approve; Amy Hermus seconded. Approved.

Amy Hermus and Mary Jo Romero will contact the parents in Beth Duvick's class. A motion is pending the results of this non-PTO option.

Donna Prew made a motion to approve the \$500 leveled book request; seconded by a majority vote. Approved

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 P.M.

Next Meeting: March 7, 6:30 P.M.