

Tualatin Elementary School PTA
General Membership Meeting • October 4, 2016
(Held in the Tualatin Elementary School Library)

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by co-President Jymn Heathcott.

The membership reviewed the September 13, 2016, meeting minutes. Cris Gnehm motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded. Minutes, as written, were approved by the membership. A quorum was present at the meeting.

REPORTS

Guest: Samantha Wikstrom, Tualatin Public Library

Saturday (Oct. 8) is Library After Dark – open house for our school (with pizza); all kids can do the scavenger hunt using the databases available and they get a book, The library wants students to learn about online resources to help with classwork. Time is 6:30-8 p.m. It is an open house format so come anytime.

Kathleen Cunnington offered a “Thank you” for connecting us to the Tualatin Library Foundation which has been supporting OBOB. Six years ago our full-time librarian positions were cut and what has helped us keep our hub of literacy going – our volunteers and the partnership with the Tualatin Public Library.

Principal report

Thank you to Erin Gillam, school's psychologist and counselor, shared about the Positive Behavior & Intervention System (PB&IS) that the school uses to proactively work with students to help them be successful each day. Mrs. Gillam is a great resource to parents.

Lots of fun stuff this week – Walk+Bike to School Day tomorrow; Fun Run is Friday; October 14 is a statewide/District in-service day for classified staff (from grounds crew to instructional support staff) – training will be at the high school.

Oct. 20 and 21 – Conferences – if you haven't signed up for one, please contact your student's teacher. The school's goal is to meet with all families. Times have been adjusted to allow teachers to meet later into the evening with parents to accommodate working to families.

Six or seven years ago the school moved away from a Halloween celebrations to Harvest parties; November 4 will be the harvest celebrations in the classrooms. That same evening is the Fall Harvest Dance. Classrooms parties are NOT on October 31 (Monday). All the fun happens on 11/4!

Attendance over time, not just at this school, but across schools has been on the decline. Last year was a year that had poor overall attendance. We want to stop the slide and are helping families understand the importance of attendance.

The goal is for all students to achieve 98% attendance for the year. This means not missing more than 1 day per month. Studies show if a child misses more than 10 days, it impacts how students learn that year. Good attendance is about 95%, but we would like to see 98%. Current attendance, is just over 97% for September; last year at this time was 94-95%. In January, an attendance study starts with PSU. The goal is to improve attendance to 98%. School-wide attendance will be posted outside the school to continue to encourage consistent attendance.

Playground rules and equipment update – students are asked to keep moving on the equipment so all kids can play; not stopping and sitting for periods of time that doesn't allow kids to play. Recess monitors are helping with constant motion. Playground repair to occur in the future, but has been delayed. Wendy O'Riley mentioned she is looking through catalogs with equipment and would like some help. There is space in the playground and \$1,500 in the PTA playground budget for equipment.

President's report (Jymn Heathcott and Sharell Lien)

Unit in Good Standing paperwork and taxes will be worked on this month. Taxes are due Nov. 15 and OPTA asks for Unit in Good Standing paperwork by Nov. 30. No taxes need to be paid, but taxes need to be filed.

The PALA group (Latino Parents group) is meeting on Tuesday, 10/11 in the school library from 7-8 p.m. All are welcome and there is

Picture Day helpers have been found (pictures are on 10/13).

Public service announcement --- out in front of the school is a parking space that with a sign "Auction Winner" and it was purchased by a person at the Auction last spring...if you are not Danielle Aldinger, please don't park in that space. There will be a different person who will use the space during the 2017-2018 school year.

Jymn shared with all to send the Dads to Big Eddy's TapHouse on October 13 at 7 p.m. to discuss ways to help at the school and during PTA activities/events.

Membership (Sharell Lien)

There are 33 members to date. Thank you to all who have chosen to be members. Membership applications are available at the meeting and online at www.tualatinelementarypta.org – dues are \$11.50. To vote at meetings or to handle money at PTA events, you must be a member.

Treasurer's report (Robert Ferring)

Robert reported on the bank balance and shared the need for a new line item to do some Auction refunds for an Auction item/event(s) that didn't take place and bidders who request a refund need to be paid.

Cara motioned to create a line item for Refunds and to fund it with enough money to reimburse the Auction refunds. There was a second and the motion was approved by vote of the membership.

VP of Volunteers report (Kate Heathcott)

We are collecting email addresses for people who are interested in receiving information about volunteer activities and categorized them for Literacy, STEM, and general volunteering.

OBOB and Art Lit are looking for Volunteers.

Kate is helping to connect the volunteers with the lead of the programs. From program leads, it is helpful to know specific date/time/activities needing help to provide potential volunteers with the best information possible.

Specific openings on the Board: Secretary, VP of Programs, and President-Elect. Any questions about these positions, please talk with Jymn or Sharell

There are many upcoming events that can always use help – Book Fair, Fall Harvest, Winter Holiday, Read-a-thon, STREAM, etc.

Kate is continuing to look into HelpCounter (specifically the use of the web-based tool for tracking hours from home). HelpCounter is the system you sign into inside the office at the laptop. This system helps the school to know who is in the building and helps track volunteer hours to show how involved our community is which is helpful information when applying for grants.

Bond Measure (Christy Whaples)

Christy shared the reminder about the Bond measure proposed by the district for capital improvements. It is a volunteer campaign and any support (time or money) you can offer is appreciated. More information about the bond can be found at <http://yestigardtualatin.com/>

Labeling mailers, distributing door hangers in neighborhoods (Oct. 27-Nov. 5), and hosting a lawn sign. For those doing door hangers, there are folders created for each person helping with a highlighted map or the route, plus all the door hangers,

Jymn Heathcott added that he'd like to see the membership support these volunteer efforts; helping with the cost of the bond measure mailing and printing expenses from the unallocated reserves in the bank.

Wendy O'Riley made a motion to donate \$100 to the Yes! For Tigard-Tualatin Schools (an Election Information Advisory Committee #13526) to help cover their printing and mailing costs. The motion was seconded and the membership voted to approve the \$100 donation.

Ambassador Liaison (Michael O'Riley)

Michael shared that the Ambassadors are available to help with school activities. He is the Ambassador liaison with the PTA. Just let him know what is needed and he will take the information to Mrs. Gillam and the other Ambassadors. Michael can be reached at the email theorileys@aol.com with the subject line that denotes it is for Michael/Ambassador.

It was shared by the Fall Harvest planning team that no help is needed at this time and the organizers wish to have all students participate in the Dance (rather than work the event).

Jymn complimented Michael for sharing the liaison idea with us and with Mrs. Gillman and Mr. Kingery.

BUSINESS

Walk+Bike (Sharell Lien)

Walk+Bike takes place on Wednesday as students arrive to school by walking, biking, or rolling – prizes for all who participate and a chance to win a helmet. This is an international event and the 20th year! Thank you to parent helpers and for donations – Michele and John Warther, Jymn Heathcott, and Leslie Brenton.

Fun Run (Cara McClung)

Fun Run happens on Friday rain or shine! This is the largest fundraiser this school year. The event raises \$15,000-\$24,000. The goal this year is \$25,000.

Ribbon sales take place over the next few days in the mornings before school (until Thursday.)

Collection envelopes can be turned in until Friday morning to be eligible for prizes.

Tomorrow is Wacky Wednesday and Thursday is Spirit day (wear your school colors).

The Tualatin restaurant Veri Bowl is doing a dinner promotion on Wednesday from 4-8 p.m.; donating 10% of sales during that time back to the school.

Day of the Fun Run (Friday) – final collection of envelopes.

Teacher race kick off the event – 9-9:15 a.m. – Mystery runner with Mr. Kingery, Mrs. Gillam, and Mr. Michaels.

All students get a post-run treat and prizes will be awarded that day with exception of t-shirts (distributed end of Oct.)

Volunteers are always helpful – see the Google doc through PTA Facebook page.

OBOB (Kathleen Cunningham)

For OBOB, there are ten 5th grade teams – volunteers needed to allow more questions to be offered to each team.

3rd grade is in need of volunteers too. This volunteer commitment is usually during lunch and recess on Mondays (sometimes Tuesdays).

Book Fair (Heather Roberts)

The Book Fair will be open the week of October 17. The theme is Bookaneer Book Fair: Where Books are Treasure. Set-up occurs on October 17 with an evening kick-off event from 6-8 p.m. (PJ event). The Books Fair is open during the week and longer hours on Conference days (Thursday and Friday).

Greatest money raised on Monday night. Bagels and books will be Thursday morning during the first morning of Conferences. There is also an "All for Books" coin drive.

We are now an 8 case event (rather than a 6 case event); allowing for custom fair.

The Book Fair volunteer spreadsheet will be out via the FB page. Decoration help is needed. **This event is also in need of a co-coordinator to help learn and take over for next year.** This is Heather's last year as a parent at the school. Proceeds from this event support the Library – this adds increased funding to the Library (\$3,000 is goal).

TEAF [Tualaint Elementary Arts Foundation] (Heather Roberts)

Heather is in the middle of registering those who applied for the after school TEAF program. A new database is being created.

The TEAF term is Oct. 24-Dec. 8 (no TEAF on Wed. prior to Thanksgiving)

Kathryn LePore and Heather are creating a new TEAF website with many pictures to upload.

A drama program with the NW Children's Theatre will be offered in the future.

Friday, November 4 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) in the gym

The Fall Harvest Dance (coordinated between the PTA and TEAF) will benefit TEAF.

DJ will be hired. Kids get to help make the play list.

A decorating committee to help Karen Soll is needed as well as hay bales.

Come in your Western wear (door prizes), refreshments available, and there are raffle baskets (with teacher experiences too).

Art Lit (Danielle Aldinger)

Danielle reported that the first meeting was yesterday (during the day and at night). It is going to be a great Art Lit year! To continue the success of this program, more volunteers are needed for the following classrooms:

- Mrs. Havens
- Mrs. Livingston

Garden (Written report for Garden by Paul Taylor)

Here are some of the things we have been working on in the garden:

– All class have come to garden orientation as of last week by 9/28/16.

– Kindergarten and 1st grade classes also harvested a pumpkin grown from seed by last year's kindergarten classes.

– 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders checked on the progress of their crops from last spring. Beans, cucumber, tomatoes, kale and purple cabbage were planted by these students.

– 5th graders all gathered mature seeds from flowering plants. These seeds will be dried and then replanted at the end of the school year in scatter garden mixes.

– Paul met with to two SPED student groups out in the garden and made bouquets for their teachers.

– Weekly harvesting for the cafeteria has continued. See photos on Facebook page for Tualatin Elementary Sustainable Garden. Aggi has been using fresh tomatoes, chard, zucchini, cabbage and some cucumbers from the garden.

Weekly families are continuing to care for the garden through the end of October.

(Garden continued)

September 28 the Garden Committee meet. We connected with Mr. Peterson (5th grade teacher spouse) and the two bicycle water pumping stations he is creating to boost water pressure from the cistern.

1st Garden work party is Sunday 10/16/16 from 1-3 p.m. Bring a lawn mower, weed wacker and favorite weeding tools. We will be clearing out the finished crops and processing our compost piles. Aggi will have refreshments too. Have Fun in the Garden!

Winter Holiday – December 9 (Cindy Krahnke)

Friday, December 9 – 6-8 p.m. Winter Holiday – a few things will be different this year...the event will still focus on the joy of decorating graham cracker houses – bring your favorite edible decorations (house and icing provided).

The favorite Garden table with swags and wreaths will be back again.

There will be face painting and tattoos, but no games in the gym (it will be locked)

There will be a photo opp too.

Decorating the happen in the cafeteria and rotunda.

Key Club will be helping; it is possible no Ambassador help will be needed.

A side idea was shared – during the Fun Run week they have Ambassadors help with morning announcements related to the Fun Run. This might be a way for Ambassadors to help the school with morning announcements throughout the year.

QUESTIONS and COMMENTS

If you want to be on the agenda, please let Sharell Lien or Jymn Heathcott know.

www.tualatinelementarypta.org

tualatinpta@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/TualatinElementaryPTA

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, November 1, 2016 – School Library
7 p.m. PTA meeting begins

Co-President Jymn Heathcott adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Prepared by ~

Date presented: November 1, 2016

Sharell Lien for Secretary

Approved as Written or Amended

Secretary

Co-President