

Tualatin Elementary School PTA
General Membership Meeting • April 4, 2017
(Held in the Tualatin Elementary School Library)

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

PaLa conducted an update

Focusing efforts on the school-wide celebration of Day of the Child, which will be on April 28 from 6-8 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help with activities and candy for prizes as well. There will be food available from local restaurants – all donated! Contact someone on the PaLa Board for more information.

President: Judith Abarca

Vice President: Elizabeth Escobar

Secretary: Gloria Esparza and Marisol Torres

Coordinator of Volunteers: Adriana Lopez, Eugenia Soto

Liaison to the PTA: Ana Uriostegui

REPORTS

Principal (Mr. Kingery)

April 14th will be the end of the third quarter (non-student day).

Spring conference day was canceled in March due to making up a snow day. If you wish to follow-up with your teacher related to comments on the report card that will come home after the grading period, please arrange a time to speak with your teacher.

Testing is beginning in April and May for – grades 3, 4, and 5 – Starts on April 17th.

Students in these grades test in reading and math. It is a computer adaptive test.

All teachers have received the training and they can help answer any questions for you.

Also, any accommodations your student may need (visual, language) can be addressed with your teacher or whomever works with your student on a daily basis for additional support they may receive.

Note: 5th grade does takes a science test towards the end of the school year.

April 20 – 4th grade music program – Mrs. Hinkle works with the students to prepare great concerts!

April 28 – Day of the Child celebration in the evening.

4th grade report (Mrs. Hole)

Thank you to the PTA to help fund grade enrichment and field trips for the students. The most recent trip was to the State Capitol Building. 4th grade is big for Oregon studies and there will be a field trip celebrating Oregon Trail Day at the Tualatin Historical Society.

May 5 is the next field trip that supports the Bridges unit. Students visit the Morrison Bridge and see how it works, as well as walk across Portland's newest bridge (Tillikum) and take trip on the Tram up to OSHU. Students will be creating/engineering bridges in May for display at the STREAM night.

Garden (Paul Taylor)

Wonderful things are growing in the garden. Bouquets were made this evening to share with the PTA.

Paul distributed cards to sign to thank Collier Arbor Care for the new wood chips and Portland Nursery for providing free plants (cool season crops for food later – lettuce, cabbage, spinach, broccoli, edible flowers, group of strawberries, plus a bag of seeds).

Tualatin Times came out take photos and follow-up on the cistern (including a demonstration of the bicycle pump). The Times stayed during the Garden meeting to complete the story.

Compost from ProGrow has been donated and delivered and is ready to be distributed.

- Mrs. Hole's 4th grade class visited the Garden today...it stayed dry!
- Ms. Allen's 5th grade class came out before Spring Break.
- Coming up – starting seeds for 2nd grade classes.
- Families are always welcome come and work in the garden.

Next Work Parties (RAIN or SHINE):

- Earth Day April 22, 1-3p
- OSU Alumni Day of Service – May 20, 9a-12 (lunch included by Aggi) – all are welcome!

Have Fun in the Garden!

STREAM Night (Amanda Thorderson)

Event is set for May 19th– 5:30 p.m. for eating and 6-8 p.m. for science. Mad Science will be here again, teachers will participating as well and because of a grant we will do some science and coding classes. With additional money we hope to provide a bus for families. We'll have Bellagio's Pizza truck here for purchase (no money returning to the PTA). Girl Scouts with a booth. Dad's club doing rockets. Opportunities to volunteer will be sent out after Spring Break. Book Fair will be happening as well and the Read-a-thon certificates will be able to redeemed. Art Lit will have activities and some of this year's projects are on display. Volunteer opportunities abound and information will be sent out in early May.

New Business

Lunch Duration

Concerns were shared about the lunch time duration for the kids; especially in the lower grades.

Mr. Kingery addressed how the lunch time is scheduled...

The school does create the master schedule for the school day. There are parameters from the school district around the teachers' contract; allowing 30 minutes student-free lunch break for teachers.

There are challenges in our school due to not having a cafeteria that facilitates space for multiple grades at one time. There are approximately 90-115 kids in each grade (115 is a full cafeteria). Typical schedule for 30 minute non-student break is 15 minute recess followed by 15 minute lunch (some schools hold to the 30 minutes), but Tualatin Elementary is closer to 40 minutes with 20 minute recess and 20 minutes lunch, which allows hot lunch kids about 15-17 minutes to eat.

The schedule at Tualatin Elementary is built to move six grade levels kids through recess/lunch from 10:35 a.m.- 1:25 p.m. (40 minute rotation).

Students are asked to eat first and talk second. The cafeteria supervisor and several other adults are available to help the younger kids open up packages and containers so that doesn't slow them down.

Concerns were raised tonight especially by parents of younger kids. Some children naturally eat slower. Parents are seeing kids eating habits change at home – they barely chew their food. Kids are coming home hungry. A parent who has been in the cafeteria has noticed that the last ones to sit down are sometimes the first ones to be asked to clean up. It appears clean-up isn't based on who is the first group to sit down (being the first to clean up), it can be based on behavior...if a table is rowdy they don't get excused even if they were the first ones to sit down. A quiet table could be asked to clean up first, even if they sat down last; providing 5-7 minutes to eat.

A comment was made if there has there been thought to switch the order -- eat first then go to recess? The current order was implemented about 6 or 7 years ago. Kids wouldn't finish lunch to get out to recess and more hunger was seen.

Mr. Kingery will begin observing lunches to see what is occurring and to help reinforce with staff the time and flow for lunch; sharing concerns heard tonight. It is known that kids who are hungry or haven't had enough to eat, won't be as successful of a learner. One thing to make sure, first ones to sit down should be the first ones to get up. If a child needs more time, they can eat at another table as the next grade is coming in, or if need to, add a snack time in the afternoon.

Mr. Kingery reinforced that if you have concerns about your child's experience at the school, to please contact your teacher and/or the Principal so a solution can be reached for your child.

PTA Business

The membership reviewed the March 14, 2017, meeting minutes. Robert Ferring motioned to approve the minutes and motion was seconded. Minutes, as written, were approved by the membership. A quorum was present at the meeting.

Presidents' report (Sharell Lien and Jymn Heathcott)

The group reviewed the calendar of events on back side of agenda.

A special request comes from Mr. Hill – The recess ball cart needs some spot welding to put it back together. Does anyone have a portable welder? Robert Ferring offered to work with his Dad to pick-up the cart and fix it.

Financial Report

The current financial report was shared.

Partial 2017-2018 Budget Review

Sharell reviewed with the members funding for some of the line items in the 2017-2018 budget. Remaining items will be covered in May. No significant adjustments were made to funding levels from the 2016-2017 budget.

June is the month where the entire budget is reviewed and voted on by the membership to allow for work to take place over the summer. There is another review and vote on the budget in September as well.

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

PALA's next meeting is scheduled for May 9 from 7-8 p.m. In the school library.

NEXT PTA MEETING:

Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 7 p.m. – School Library

Co-President Jymn Heathcott adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Prepared by ~

Date presented: May 2, 2017

Sharell Lien (for Secretary)

Approved as Written or Amended

Secretary

Co-President