

Tualatin Elementary School PTA
General Membership Meeting • April 7, 2015
(Held in the Tualatin Elementary School Library)

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Amanda Thorderson. A quorum of members as stated in the standing rules was present.

The membership reviewed the February 3, 2015, meeting minutes. Robert Ferring motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded. Minutes, as written, were approved by the membership.

REPORTS

Principal report (Jamie Kingery)

As a follow-up to last month's presentation by Christy Shaver about homework, the goals are to make homework valuable and supportable by parents. Homework doesn't play into the grade, but it is looked at for proficiency. The information shared at the PTA meeting has also been shared with the teachers. Please talk to Jamie if you want to see the homework posters that show teacher and parent feedback/ideas thus far. The school would like to have a chance to bring parents together to discuss more about homework.

The school is getting ready for the end of the year activities. Talk to your teacher any time ~~any time~~ if you have questions.

Grades 3-5 have smarter balance assessments next week. Communicate with your teacher if you have further questions about the testing. Help your student with the important preparation of rest and a good breakfast.

Kathrine LaPore attended the meeting to report about the 3rd grade activities. Students and teachers are gearing up for the smarter balanced assessments by practicing in the classroom. Practice tests are available online and helpful hints have gone home. Kids have coaches and teams to work on phonics, segmentation, etc. to help prepare for the assessments.

Karen Waibel discussed an opportunity to support the Garden. Starting on Thursday, April 9, and going through April 27, you can vote daily to help the Garden receive a grant. Karen asked if someone could help publicize the voting opportunity to the community. Danielle Aldinger volunteered.

10 - \$1000 grants available
5 - \$10,000 grants available
2 - \$20,000 grants available

President's report (Amanda Thorderson)

Amanda reported the IRS penalty for the late filing of the 2012/2013 taxes was been waived and the PTA has received the funds back from the IRS with interest earned. Process changes within the organization are being made to ensure tax filing is done on time in the future.

Board position or committee leads still in need:

- Secretary
- Spirit Wear
- Auction (co-chair needed)
- 5th grade promotion – Katie Fercking, plus someone else
- Restaurant night – encompasses set-up of fund raising nights with restaurants. The school gets a percentage of the sales....help advertise, get volunteers, if needed

Treasurer's report (Wendy O'Riley)

The current financial report/budget was presented. Reviewing the current budget status, \$13,000 plus the \$12,000 set aside for next year are available. With Fun Run we should be able to fund the following school year's budget, if the approved budget and Fun Run success are similar to past years. Please be sure any check requests are in by June 30 for reimbursement.

BUSINESS

Carnival (Wendy O'Riley)

The vendor contract for the games has been signed by District. The event will be on May 29 from 5-8 p.m.

Wendy reported the honor students from high school will help with booths and food vendors are coming back from last year. Community partners invited include Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Fire, Police, Club Sport, Library, and the City of Tualatin Parks/Summer Activities.

We do need parent volunteers at the inflatables. With the discount given on the contract, the vendor won't be bringing extra help.

Baked goods with no nuts are needed as well.

This event does need a co-chair. Wendy is checking with a few people. If anyone is interested, please contact Wendy or Amanda.

Garden (Paul Taylor)

A beautiful, edible arrangement was brought to the meeting – made by Paul.

The Garden Committee met on March 10 and planned the next work party. If you want to join the garden committee, talk to Pam or Karen.

Ms. Cooks' 3rd grade class worked composting and weeding.

Wood chips were delivered by Morton Tree Service thanks to the letter written by Emken's class. The chips are already in the garden and there is another delivery coming tomorrow. Thank you to Don Morton for providing wood chips for the garden.

March 15 work party involved weeding, wood chip distribution, and Whole Foods provided snacks via a \$75 gift card they gave to support the garden.

Donated vegetable plants (lettuce/chard) were planted prior to Spring Break. Al's has provided pruners.

Ms. LaPore and her class came out to weed the garden and all-day kindergarten practiced putting on gloves and keeping them together when they are taken off.

On March 31, Ms. Heath's 3rd grade helped with weeding and composting (even parents came to help).

On April 1, Ms. Sieveke was the final 2nd grade class to brainstorm a list of favorite vegetables. Teachers will help determine what will be grown.

Today was the Dorothy Dogwood installation day. TEAF kids, parents, and teachers came together to plant a remembrance tree for Mrs. Cryder's mother. A lovely poem was read by Mrs. Cryder.

TEAF/Art Lit (Heather Roberts)

TEAF started yesterday and runs through the week of May 25. There are 198 kids taking 400 class spots. A new Art Lit project started yesterday. Art portfolios will go home the last week of May.

Reminder – TEAF and Art Night are going to be combined this year – **May 21, 6-8 p.m.**

Volunteers are needed to help. A Google doc link will be sent in a few weeks. Jean has volunteered to run the dessert auction. There will also be a Raffle as a fund raiser for TEAF.

Library/OBOB (Kathleen Cunnington)

Kathleen shared the State books are in and all donation plates have been put in the books.

The Tualatin Library Foundation is funding all OBOB books for the elementary schools in Tualatin and Hazelbook Middle School. Thank you to the Foundation for the 512 books (8 copies of each title for all for these schools)!

Kathleen shared that volunteers are needed – Library coordinator and OBOB coordinator for next school year. For OBOB, having 3-4 people would be better for running the events/challenges.

Read-a-thon (Robert Ferring)

Robert reported that he is excited about the Read-a-thon, rather than a selling fundraiser. Many others have expressed this excitement too. The decision was made to do a fundraiser that involves a school priority – Literacy.

Students track minutes on recording sheet. Everyone can participate as donations are not mandatory to participate and receive a prize. Students just need to turn in the reading log.

Students are reminded about the Read-a-thon each morning during the announcements and Karen Wiebel shared her class has this as their only homework during the read-a-thon. Mrs. Hagerman said she will help with the read-a-thon next time. Jamie shared that teachers really like the concept.

We do need your input for next year...adjustments, teaks, and timing? It is an Auction year, but not all families participate in the Auction.

Amanda added that the PTA now has a Razoo account to be able to collect money from donations of out-of-town family members. There is a 10% fee.

ACTION ITEMS

Elections (Amanda Thorderson)

There are no positions opposed, so we can choose to vote for the slate of officers. Thank you to parents for stepping up to cover the many positions.

Amanda asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the one open position of Secretary.

Slate of Officers

- President – Amanda Thorderson
- President-Elect – James Heathcott, Sharell Lien
- VP of Programs – Cindy Krahnke
- VP of Fundraisers – Amy Zuckerman
- VP of Communications – Beth Hancock
- VP of Volunteers – Kate Heathcott
- Treasurer – Wendy O'Riley
- Treasurer-elect – Robert Ferring

As the chair of the nominating committee, Katie nominated the slate of officers. Karen Waibel made a motion to accept the slate of officers, the motion was seconded, and the membership voted unanimously to approved the slate.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

New this year we are discussing specific portions of the budget at monthly meetings to be able to have an accurate budget to propose/review in June for the vote.

Field Trips – last year voted to do the \$6,000 as lump sum so that those grades that went over \$1,000 could still be reimbursed, as long as the \$6,000 isn't over-spent during the year. Question --- do we keep it that way (bundled)? Different grades require different activities. It can be hard to budget as the exact costs are difficult to determine ahead of time (especially transportation). Is there a problem if grades go over? It just means that if a grade needs to go over, that they work with other grades to see if funds are available from their \$1,000. Wendy will send an email to show how much more is left in the fund and what has been spent.

Amanda will attend the April 15 staff meeting to share the message about the Field trip money. \$6,000 will be put in the proposed budget for all grades to share.

Grade Enrichment

\$6,000 has been the amount for grade enrichment for all grades to share (like field trips). History has shown that just about the \$6,000 has been spent each year. Amanda emphasized that the Board wants you to spend that money. It can be used for...

- Books for classroom
- Subscriptions to Brain Pop
- Science voices
- Flash cards
- Apps
- Oregon Trail game
- String project
- Presentations in classroom

Art Lit - Registration fee (\$200) is required and there are supplies – suggestion to keep at \$1,500.

Teacher/Staff appreciation – Suggestion is the same amount – \$1,500

This covers the teacher breakfast at beginning of the year, teacher appreciation week activities (with breakfast and lunch), holiday gift, coffee card. The teachers expressed that they appreciate the notes from the kids and lunch being provided.

Music - \$500, plus add Box Tops for beats concept. Any other assistance is always appreciated.

PE - \$500

Health room - \$100

Principal discretionary fund - \$1,000

This money has gone to a high priority that needed some extra funding (garden water spigots, music, garden, etc.)

Playground Maintenance - \$500

Is there new equipment? Rubber mats at fall zones.

Katie, Mr. Hill, plus a few others to help with a constant long-term plan

NEW – The group discussed adding two new line items for programs at the school to the proposed budget – ELL, SPED – \$500 each

OTHER

April 24 is Stuff the Bus – there is a competition between grades for hygiene items. Information will go home soon. If you have questions, or can help on the day of the event, contact Erin Gillam or Christy Goodell.

Amanda announced that Ana Uriostegui is willing to be the PaLa Liaison. We will need to change the bylaws to formalize this position as a board member. Ana has been participating this year and attending board meetings. We appreciate her continuing in this role.

Amanda added that next month we will need to keep reports short to accommodate the budget discussions – those remaining include:

May 5 – TEAF, OBOB, Library, Book Fair, Garden, plus additions from March – Fall Harvest, Winter Holiday, and the Carnival

June 2 – Overview of entire budget and vote on the budget for the 2015-2016 school year.

A motion was made to adjourn, it was seconded and approved by a vote of the membership. President Amanda Thorderson adjourned the meeting 8:32 p.m.

QUESTIONS and COMMENTS

If you want to be on the agenda, please let Amanda Thorderson know.

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tualatinpta@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 7 p.m. – School Library

Prepared by ~

Date presented: May 5, 2015

Sharell Lien, Secretary

Approved as Written or Amended

President

Secretary