

Tualatin Elementary School PTA
General Membership Meeting • August 23, 2016
(Held in the Tualatin Elementary School Sustainable Garden)

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by co-President Jymn Heathcott. A welcome and introductions followed.

INTRODUCTION of the BOARD

Co-Presidents – Jymn Heathcott and Sharell Lien

Jymn welcomed everyone and shared that tonight we have Jill Zurschmeide from TTSD School Board joining us. Jill is the TTSD School Board liaison for Tualatin Elementary. Jymn gave an overview of the PTA --- formed to offer support to the school and to the community that is Tualatin Elementary. The overall mission is to make every child's potential a reality by offering support to the school. Introduced himself and shared that he has a 5th and 1st grader. Sharell is co-President with Jymn. Sharell has been the Board's Secretary for two years and has children in 3rd and 4th grades.

Co-Vice Presidents for Fundraising – Beth Hancock and Amy Zuckerman

Amy shared that you'll see communication from her about fundraisers, but we don't have an Auction this school year. Her children are in the 5th and 3rd grades.

Unable to attend meeting – Beth Hancock. Beth's daughter is a 5th grader this year. Both Amy and Beth have served on the Board before.

Vice President Volunteers – Kate Heathcott

Kate has 5th and 1st graders and shared we will see items from her about opportunities to become involved.

Vice President Communications – Prasanna Raghupathi

Prasanna has a 5th grader and 2nd grader and this is her first year on board.

Treasurer – Robert Ferring

Robert has 2nd and 3rd graders. He helps with art literacy and helped organize the Read-a-Thon last year which raised \$6,000.

Treasurer-Elect – Prabha Senthil Kumar

Prabha has students in the 5th grade and kindergarten. She will be working with Robert; learning the ins and outs of the Treasurer duties. Prabha will become Treasurer next school year.

INTRODUCTION of the MEETING ATTENDEES – Each meeting attendee introduced themselves sharing connection to the school (children and involvement with the school). There were several new kinder parents and parents new to the school.

The membership reviewed the June 7, 2016, meeting minutes. Danielle Aldinger motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded. Minutes, as written, were approved by the membership.

REPORTS

Special Report – Bond Measure

Kristy Whaples shared that the school district has a bond measure on the November ballot. Bond money is used for buildings, curriculum, and computers, and levy money is used for people. Last year the vote was for a levy. This bond is to be used for rebuilding aging schools, enhancing school security, and addressing other building concerns to update for 20th century learning. The way that Tualatin Elementary would use the money focuses on safety. The bond would raise \$291 million by a tax rate increase of .37 per \$1K of assessed property value – over 20 years (drops to less after 10

years). Kristy shared a sign up sheet from “Yes! For Tigard-Tualatin Schools” – this campaign operates through volunteers and needs help to support the campaign to get the vote out. Opportunities to help are via lawn signs, writing a letter to the editor, distributing door hangars, helping to label mailings to all residents in TTSD area, and signing a letter of support for the voter's pamphlet. Fundraising helps to pay for signs and door hangars and mailings costs. The goal of this campaign organization (Election Information Advisory Committee) is to have each school raise \$200. Kristy shared a letter from the director of fund raising. Kristy passed out sheets with information on how to donate. Find more information at <http://yestigardtualatin.com> .

Principal report

Mr. Kingery thanked everyone for coming. Shared that we celebrate the eighth year of the sustainable garden that we are sitting in – it has grown tremendously. Paul Taylor uses the garden to connect with the teachers and students creating educational opportunities. It is a great place to be!

We were fortunate to have a lot of volunteer hours in the garden over the summer. The outdoor classroom is a result of an Eagle Scout project. Cistern catches water and we use it to water the garden. Came as a result of a grant. Kids learn about Farm to Table— this is where food comes from. Cook Aggie incorporates the harvest into the food served. One thing special about this year school year – this year's 5th graders were the kindergarteners when Mr. Kingery started.

Proud to have a passionate and dedicated staff and great community. Relationships make the difference here at the school and we take pride in a family atmosphere. These are the intangible pieces that makes the school successful. Doing things to build community—adults and kids—we talk about this regularly. We don't take elementary school lightly – we they get them first and want to make sure that they appreciate and enjoy the experience so that it continues into middle and high school.

Mr. Kingery emphasized that his door is open. Don't hesitate to reach out. This is his 6th year at TuES. TTSD aligns with his philosophies on education and excited to share that with parents and kids. Mailing will go out end of this week to share about teacher assignments.

Smallest class sizes at TuES in recent history and the school board has worked hard to lower class sizes.

Next week is Supply Drop Off/Open House on Thursday, September 1 from 3-4 p.m.

Longer school day this year. Extended for 15 minutes for instructional time; starting at 8:10 a.m. and ending at 2:30 p.m. The first week of school will be early dismissal at 2 p.m. (Sept 6-9th). The bus schedule automatically changes.

Back to School night will be Thurs, Sept 15th. The schedule will be sent out soon. Free BBQ dinner provided by Horizon Community Church; please bring extended family and come and share in this school community event.

Playground repair on the rings – There have been some delays, but on the radar for the equipment to be repaired by the District. The replacement parts are in (funded by the District) and awaiting installation.

Security and safety – There is a Safety Summit on Tuesday to fine tune Standard Response Protocol to make consistent across the County the response in an emergency.

Security cameras are being installed at the doors that are open during the day.

Staffing – Mr. Kingery shared some of the staff changes this year – some adds, some changes, some individuals who have left. Several name changes this year. Four individuals were married since March of this year!

What separates us from other schools – **Garden**—sustainable garden/outdoor classroom; **Technology**—5th graders leave with 3 years of 1 to 1 device experience; **TEAF** – after school educational program/keep program low cost – runs on grants and donations; **Volunteerism** – really high volunteer rates – makes a huge difference here. Relationships with families and volunteers from the community.

Mr. Kingery is looking forward to another great year and turned the meeting over to Jymn.

President's report (Jymn Heathcott and Sharell Lien)

Jymn shared that there was a sheet distributed outlining open positions.

Open Board positions – A Secretary is needed as we must have a Secretary to operate a PTA in Oregon. Other open positions are VP of Programs, President-Elect, and PaLa Liaison.

Open Committee/Event Leadership positions – Sharell then shared open event and leadership positions and reviewed the detail that was identified on the distributed sheet. There are also available “in-training” Event/Activity positions. This information will be posted on the Tualatin Elementary PTA website.

Membership – Membership applications are available tonight! Dues for the 2016-2017 school year are \$11.50 per person. Sign up to show your support for PTA....the more members, the stronger we will be. Need to be a member to vote or handle any money at PTA events/activities.

Calendar of events – A calendar of events from August-December was distributed to those in attendance on the reverse of the agenda.

Every month there will be a PTA meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. First Fridays are also a good opportunity to talk to other members of the TuES community – September 9 after the bell rings is the First Friday Social this month.

Treasurer's report (Robert Ferring)

Robert shared that we switched to PTAEZ – new financial tracking program. Next meeting, he will share the budget. Very easy, helpful web tool for PTA finances. In September, PTA members will vote on the actual budget for 2016-2017. Balance on hand is \$59,000+. Budget for this year is projected at \$52,000. At this time, the PTA is funded for the whole year's activities and giving.

VP of Fundraising report (Amy Zuckerman)

Last year, we did a new fundraiser with Dutch Bros. on Tualatin Sherwood Road. This year we are doing it again – \$1 off coupons and \$.50 comes back to the school. Last year we made \$100. We are hoping that this year folks will use them more and we will see more money coming back to TuES. These will be available our upcoming events before Sept. 6. Also, did work with Bellagio's again. We are awaiting our check from the last year-long coupon. Amy is working with Beth Hancock this year, the other VP of Fundraising. There will be the Fun Run in October and a Read-a-Thon in the spring. Lots of restaurant night opportunities too!

VP of Volunteers report (Kate Heathcott)

Kate shared that her focus this year is on a few topics-

- Room Parent assessment of the program last year
- Increasing consistency of communications
- Educating on opportunities with Help Counter to better track volunteer hours
- Increasing connection with VP of Communication to ensure that we are reaching everyone with our opportunities.

BUSINESS

Library/OBOB (Kathleen Crismor)

The school has a wonderful library program that is run by volunteers. Need volunteers to assist in this effort that reaches each child at the school.

OBOB (Oregon Battle of the Books) – Is a great program for 3rd – 5th grades, but needs volunteers because more and more kids are interested in this and the size of the program is increasing. Students read the same books (across Oregon) during the year, practice in teams to answer questions, and battle their knowledge during the year. This information will also be shared at School Supply Drop-off.

Art Lit (Danielle Aldinger)

Danielle is heading up Art Literature this year. This is her last year as her youngest is in 5th grade so we need someone to train this year. Danielle is looking forward to the projects this year. Help is needed – we are looking for individuals to help with project (need volunteers for all classrooms). Instructions are very straightforward – don't need to be artistic...there is monthly training before the lessons are done and materials, curriculum are supplied.

Fun Run – Oct. 7 (Lynn Clary, Lindsay Sanders)

The Fun Run team has been planning and meeting this summer to prepare for October 7! The donation are a flat fee (no lap counting). Ribbons will be sold again to support the four runners – three runners will be know and one will be a mystery runner. Last year the mystery runner was Blaze! Every grade/student participates. Donation collection packets will be to the teachers in late September. Spirit days occur during the week of October 3 – looking at Pajama day, Wacky day (replaces Crazy Hair Day), Spirit Day (TuES gear) and Neon day. Need volunteers for this event as well!

Walk+Bike to School Day – Oct. 5 (Sharell Lien)

This event is looking for a co-chair. There is a budget line item of \$200 to help purchase prizes and goodie bags for each participant. It would be nice to have a drawing for each grade level. Past participation has been 250-300 students.

Garden (Paul Taylor)

Takes a lot of people to make the garden flourish. “Tualatin Elementary Sustainable Garden” has a Facebook page, please Like this page and check-in because you are in the garden. Always post pictures of the garden, and post information on when the classes come to the garden. 3rd grade, the kids learn about simple machines and so he brings out his push lawn mower. The garden is used to illustrate the concepts being learned in the classroom. Do need families to adopt the garden – water the garden – happens by hand. The cistern also helps (holds 2,500-3,000 gallons), but it has been empty since early July. Needs to fill up again. Hand water it because it holds down the weeds. Please do not come to the garden by yourself. Bring your children – show them that it is important to you and should be important to them. We regularly share our produce. Some crops that have flourished – broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, peas, tomatoes (late Sept/Oct). During school year – cafeteria benefits but during the summer, the families who work the garden benefit from harvesting. Have needs in Sept and Oct for watering/care assistance. There will be work parties published once school starts. Have Fun in the Garden!

Scrip (Sharell for Amanda Thorderson)

First order is Sept 20th – First and third Tuesday's will be order days (delivery on Thursday) – have some additional cards that have been added – Nordstrom, PetSmart, Adidas, Visa pre-paid cards (good at Costco), Office Depot, and Hyatt Hotels.

Spirit Wear (Sharell for Amanda Thorderson)

Ordering Spirit Wear this week to have a supply on hand. There will be new options – neon green/yellow besides red and black shirts. Shirts will be available at Back to School Night and sold at cost; orders taken for sizes not available. Also taking donations of gently used spirit wear...a box will be in the Rotunda at school.

Book Fair – Oct. 17-21 (Sharell for 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. The Books Fair is open during the week and longer hours on Conference days (Thursday and Friday). The Volunteer information will go out at the end of September.

Fall Harvest Dance – Nov. 4 (Sharell for Heather Roberts)

The date approved for the Fall Harvest event is November 4, 2016, starting at 5:30 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m. Volunteer sign up will be done later.

Sharell has submitted the building use forms to the office with event date/time and include set-up and tear-down times. The school's website has a calendar that is updated with these event dates. Dates will be put on the PTA website soon.

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, September 13, 2016 – School Library
7 p.m. PTA meeting begins

Co-President Sharell Lien adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Prepared by ~

Date presented: September 13, 2016

Kate Heathcott for Secretary

Approved as Written or Amended

President

Secretary