

Tualatin Elementary School PTA
General Membership Meeting • March 4, 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)

Thank you to hearing screening volunteers.

This week was a successful kindergarten registration – largest crowd in four years. 55 registrations received already. Full-day Kindergarten is provided for all families starting the 2015-2016 school year. Amanda welcomed families at the Kindergarten evening and invited them to attend PTA meetings.

Tualatin Elementary was featured in the news on KATU.

Farm to table story – <http://www.katu.com/familymatters/commit-2-be-fit/Tualatin-Elementary-School-garden-Farm-To-School-Program-294271781.html?mobile=y>

Students, Aggi, and Paul were all interviewed for the segment.

5th grade concert tomorrow night. At the next PTA meeting, the third grade will be represented.

Christy Shaver attended to share instructional data from TuES and the work with parents to support all the students. Christy is the Title One coordinator-- literacy specialist; matching support needs to kid needs related to reading. For interventions in reading there are nine instructional assistants. Title One funds are primarily used to support this effort. Linda Blackwood is the family liaison. Family involvement is a Title One component that needs to be included as it is linked to academic success. Sarah Clark, our school Americorp members, is also helping with this effort.

President's report (Amanda Thorderson)

Amanda is expecting a decision at the beginning of April by the IRS if the penalty from the 2012/2013 taxes will be waived. To stop interest accruing, the Executive Board approved paying the penalty and sent a letter asking for the penalty to be waived. The letter included the process changes taking place within the organization to ensure filing of taxes is done on time in the future.

Amanda asked any past board members that may have information from past years to please let her know. Job description for each board position are being written up as well as a procedure book to help with future training of officers.

Cara will get the minutes from her year as Secretary and send them to Sharell to put with the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 minutes.

Spending the playground maintenance money allocated in the budget was tabled until next time.

Treasurer's report (Wendy O'Riley)

Report for February 2015 was submitted.

BUSINESS

Carnival (Wendy O'Riley)

Wendy reported that she is working with the other elementary schools (Bridgeport and Byrom) to keep carnivals going for the kids. They are working on securing vendors for inflatables, etc. The District is requiring more insurance from vendors and some past vendors are no longer available.

Amanda said more discussion is needed with the school. The tentative date on the calendar for this event is Friday, May 29th.

Garden (Paul Taylor)

The Garden is alive!

The Wednesday TEAF class has been working hard. They started seeds that germinated in the office work room. Kids took home a bouquet to a loved one.

Each class was asked to write a letter that was advocating for something significant to the garden. The Garden has many community partners who help with garden improvements.

Emken's class asked for wood chips...that is what will be delivered this Friday afternoon.

Holes' class requested pruners...new pruners are coming from donations from garden centers.

Amano's class asked for compost! This has been requested from Pro Gro.

Paul attended the Garden summit in January...Portland Nursery sent a community support person who enjoys giving things away. Many new seed packets were acquired – cool season crops – 22 packets of seeds! The school garden also has a discount card at the Portland Nursery...30% off during 2015.

3rd grade – visited the compost pile. They learned about how the compost area works (left to right composting)...first bin looks like what is in the garden, bin two is brown with dead stuff (use pitch fork to flip over to see the worms and creepy crawlies...shows that the composting is going well). Kids were very interested....seedlings were in bin two also. The last bin contains the final compost...doesn't smell too bad...everyone got to take a whiff. Weeding also occurred and everyone knew which bin to use!

2nd grade – brainstormed with most second grade classrooms about vegetables...what's your favorite? Many different veggies listed (and a few fruits). Ask your second grader to share some common cool season vegetables and warm season vegetables they learned about.

Mrs. Amano helped write grants...Whole Food plus Lowe's to see about getting funds for the garden. We should know about Whole Foods later this month and May for the Lowe's grant. The money was requested for the cistern on the new shelter. Purple Rain Company will help tell us how to construct the cistern and the grant will help with materials. Then we will have a work party!

Next Garden Work Party – March 15 from 1-3 p.m.

Activities will be spreading wood chips, compost (if it arrives), and clear out the raised beds
Radishes and other items will be planted.

TEAF/Art Lit (Heather Roberts)

Heather reported that there was a \$250 grant applied for by Mrs. Lapore that was successful. Also,

TEAF has received a private donation \$500 (from a teacher).

New term begins April 6 and ends May 28. Forms should go out soon.

TEAF is in need two science teachers...anyone interested? The materials/curriculum are done and easy to follow.

Other classes offered this TEAF term:

- Chess
- Knitting
- Irish dancing
- How to make a music video
- Tennis/soccer
- Playground games
- and more!

NEW! TEAF and Art Night are going to be combined this year – **May 14, 6-8 p.m.**

Volunteers are needed to help head up securing more volunteers, prep supplies, and run the dessert auction.

There is one more Art Lit project coming up. The current one can be seen out in the hallways.

The Art room has been gutted....thank you to the volunteers. It looks great!

Foundation Call Effort

Thanks to those who helped to make calls during the Foundation fund drive...during the call night, TuES raised \$520 and \$75 in pledges, plus additional money will come in from people who already committed prior to the calls.

Library/OBOB (Kathleen Cunnington)

Kathleen said that two more state books are needed. At the meeting tonight, families committed to purchase state books for Vermont and West Virginia! The set is complete.

The OBOB assembly went well and the kids were excited. The school-wide reading program supported this effort even though OBOB is for grades 3-5. The 2nd graders watched and were very excited to do it next year. At the assembly, two groups faced off with other kids from the OBOB program on risers. The winning team goes to finals this Saturday at Westview High School at 9 a.m.

Kathleen added that they are applying for more funds to get OBOB books...want to get titles out before summer so kids can begin reading them. Amanda added a thank you to Elena and Kathleen for heading this up.

The Tualatin Librarian for the kids came to the assembly. They are a great support to the school.

Box Tops (Elena Whitaker)

The Box Tops contest is finished – 5,684 box top points were collected in all. Soderquist and Fossati classrooms won the popcorn party.

There will be one more contest this year – May-ish date.

ACTION ITEMS

Standing Rule Changes (Amanda Thorderson)

The Executive Board is recommending changes to provide a smoother transition from year to year.

Proposed change to the standing rules would include adding an Executive Board President-elect position that would be the President the following year. The President-elect would work side by side with the President and we propose the same thing with the Treasurer (add Treasurer-elect)
Other idea is to add Executive Board positions (we have committee chairs), but a Board is stronger with more voices. Adding VPs in charge of specific things were brainstormed:

- * Communications – BBB newsletter, FB, website
- * Programs/activities – liaison with harvest festival, winter holiday groups, etc.
- * Volunteers – not the volunteer coordinator, but work with everything parent volunteer related
- * Fundraising – box tops, fun run, and auction (support them)

Motion made by Heather Roberts to change the standing rules to add a the President-elect and Treasurer-elect positions, as well as have four Vice Presidents with specific areas of involvement (Communications, Programs/Activities, Volunteers, Fundraising). The motion was seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was approved by a vote of the membership.

Nominating Committee (Amanda Thorderson)

A nominating committee needs to be established. Katie Fercking has volunteered to be on the nominating committee. The vote for Executive Board positions will take place at the April meeting. A reminder was made that you must be a member to become an officer and/or vote for officers.

A motion made by Heather Roberts for Katie to be the committee chair. The motion was seconded and approved by a vote of the membership. Amanda will share with Katie the names of people that have expressed interest in running.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

New this year we are discussing specific portions of the budget at each monthly meeting to be able to have a better, more accurate, budget to propose/review in June for the vote.

A change was made to the agenda this month that tables the membership discussing the budget requests for the 2015-2016 budget for the following activities: Fall Harvest, Winter Holiday, and Carnival.

Fundraiser start-up funds/expenses that are in the budget were focused on at this meeting:

- Fun Run – \$1,200 for expenses....anticipated start-up funds are the same
- Memory book – \$100
- Box Tops – \$200
- Labels for Education – \$200
- Spirit Wear – \$1,000 – talk about this more next month (Amanda will talk with Courtney)
- Spring Fundraiser – \$5,000 – need to talk to Heidi Wallace – is this enough to get the auction

going? Note: this line item in the budget will not be used for this school year.

- Misc Fundraiser start-up – \$500
- Scrip – we are losing money on Scrip (no parent order this month; 3 teacher orders) Karen and Kim have said it isn't worth the PTA time to do it. It is worth it for the teachers, as they do the majority of the purchasing. Is there someone who would do it for the teachers? Kim has shared ideas with Jamie to generate interest...it is a good program. Teachers have a tendency to save up for something to purchase...example: a piece of technology. Can Scrip be electronic?
There are two more months this year to see how it goes...see if any of the promotion ideas help generate interest. What amount of money per year would make it worth it? – \$1,000
Amanda will talk to Jamie about options if the PTA doesn't keep it. If you feel strongly about keeping it, please share with Amanda.
- PTA obligations stays the same...a few things can be cut back on and will be reflected in the June proposed budget

Amanda added that in the following months we will need to keep reports short to accommodate the budget discussions – those remaining include:

April 7 – Field Trips, Grade Enrichment, Art Lit, Teacher appreciation, Music, PE, Health Room, and Principle discretionary fund, plus add from March – Fall Harvest, Winter Holiday, and the Carnival

May 5 – TEAF, OBOB, Library, Book Fair, Garden, and Playground Maintenance.

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

A motion was made by Kathleen to adjourn, it was seconded and approved by a vote of the membership. President Amanda Thorderson adjourned the meeting 9:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS and COMMENTS

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

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

Prepared by ~

Date presented: April 7, 2015

Sharell Lien, Secretary

Approved as Written or Amended

President

Secretary