

Tualatin Elementary School PTA
General Membership Meeting • September 10, 2013
(Held in the Tualatin Elementary School Library)

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by co-president Jill McCarty. A quorum of members as stated in the standing rules was present. Cindy Krahnke is our time keeper.

The membership reviewed the August 20, 2013, meeting minutes. Amy Zuckerman motioned to approve and the motion was seconded. Minutes were approved by the membership.

REPORTS

Principal report (Jamie Kingery)

Jamie reported the biggest event coming up is Back to School Night on Thursday, September 12. The Spanish portion begins at 5:45 p.m. in the library. At 6:30 p.m., an all school address from the principal, Tigard-Tualatin School Foundation, PTA leadership, and another few individuals takes place. Once concluded, parents and students are released to classrooms to learn more about the year ahead. There will be a PTA treat provided. Parents can sign up for the October parent/teacher conferences too. Several tables will be set for PTA activities (volunteer sign ups for upcoming PTA activities, spirit wear and memory book sales, sustainable garden, Box Tops, Walk+Bike, Library, Art Literacy, etc.)

Erin Gillman, school counselor and physiologist, gave a summary tonight of how TuES supports a positive behavior system (**a summary of the guest speaker's presentation is at the end of the minutes**). Jamie said it comes down to communication methods used at school. If you have questions about your child in the classroom, please ask Erin Gillman, Mr. Kingery, or your student's the teacher. They are happy to share the methods to help parents reinforce them at home. A goal of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program is to improve communication that goes out to families to continue to provide more and more families with the information about how we handle behavior at school.

Important dates:

- Sept. 12 – back to school night to go to the classrooms and learn how to help support the classroom learning at home.

Co-presidents' report (Jill McCarty)

The Teachers Breakfast was provided by the PTA the first week back to school. It was a success and several teachers sent thank you notes. Courtney Kozak received food/treats from Haggen. Each teacher received gift cards to Lake Shore Learning (\$50 each). A \$5 to Starbucks was also given to them (from the teacher appreciation fund). The BooHoo WooHoo breakfast that took place the first day of school was attended by kindergarten families. It was also well-received.

Treasurer's report (Elena Molau)

The audit is almost complete. There are a few open items to close out (checks that haven't cleared). The August financial report shows a short fall, but this is how the year usually begins as the Fun Run (October 4) brings in a large sum.

The Red Folders expense is not in the budget. Elena will check with Stacy for the amount.

There was a question about grade enrichment (\$1,000 per grade level) and how it is used. Each grade team gets together and decides what they want to purchase.

Vice President's report (Courtney Kozak)

Available chair positions

- **Walk+Bike to School – Wednesday, October 9**
Jill Armstrong shared what has been done in the past. Some years were elaborate, some years not. There can be healthy snacks and water out front of the school (donated) for kids who walked or biked. A slip of paper from the parent that said they walked or biked was put into a drawing for prizes. There are resources through the City of Tualatin and the Bicycle Transportation Alliance. Jamie mentioned he has already talked with the Tualatin Police Department. *(Leslie Brenton and Sharell Lien volunteered)*
- **Book Fair – 2-day event – Thursday, October 24 and Friday, October 25**
Heather Roberts would like a co-chair. *(Kate Richmond volunteered to co-chair)*
- **Picture Day – Tuesday, October 8**
There are three volunteers needed for picture day or more with shorter shifts.
- **Vision and Hearing Screening – Wednesday, October 9** (most of the day)

Courtney report spirit wear is being picked up tomorrow and the PTA will begin selling it soon (hopefully at Back to School Night). Credit card processing is available through Square (Courtney set it up) and can be used for PTA activities.

Membership report (Sharell Lien)

Twenty-six (26) members signed up before tonight and 14 new ones were received at this meeting! Thank you for your support of PTA. If you signed up before tonight's meeting, Sharell has your membership cards.

Membership cycle is July 1 through June 30. In order to vote at the meetings, please renew your membership if you haven't done so from last school year.

BUSINESS

Garden (Paul Taylor)

Sustainable Garden meetings are customarily the third Monday of the month. However, the next one is Monday, October 7 at 2:45 p.m.

Work Party! 2nd Sunday of every month – October 13 from 1-3 p.m. is the next garden gathering.

Join the Tualatin Elementary Sustainable Garden FB page to keep up to date with news about the garden and ways to get involved!

Many things got done at the last work party. Thank you to Jill Armstrong and Danny (student) who brought his father and uncle. Several teachers are involved too: Pam Soderquist and Kimberly Sieveke.

Paul would like to have a table at back to school night, but will be out of town and the teachers are in their classrooms. There are t-shirts to sell and information to share with people about the garden. Leslie Brenton agreed to cover the table for the Garden...guess who took home the lovely flowers?!

Paul reported that eight (8) classes have gone through the garden this year. The 1st graders got to take a pumpkin and/or squash back to their classroom. These kids planted them last year when they were Kindergarteners. The harvest will go to Aggi in the kitchen.

There were also eight (8) flats of pansies donated by Al's Garden Center to be planted in the garden – **Thank you, Al's!**

Rules and expectations for our Sustainable Garden (beyond no tomfoolery!):

- 1) Walk in the garden (it isn't the playground).
- 2) Only enter the garden with a teacher, parent, or responsible adult.
- 3) Don't eat from the garden unless you are with an adult. It is a pesticide-free space, but there still could be things that you shouldn't eat.
- 4) Tools stay low to the ground.
- 5) Be kind to plants and critters in the garden; sticks aren't for whacking (remove yourself if you are fearful of the situation; please don't swat bees or kill the spiders).

Fall Harvest Festival (Wendy O'Riley)

Please mark your calendar for the Fall Harvest Festival! -- **October 18** (confirmed date)

Wendy will be convening her committee soon to begin planning the event. The meeting is at Shari's on Sept. 18 @ 7:15 p.m.

School Directory (Wendy O'Riley)

Forms for directory sign-up are at the printer and will go out the last week of September.

Carnival (Wendy O'Riley)

Katie Ferking and Wendy O'Riley would like to use Box Tops for a Carnival and to help raise the funds for the event.

Do we have a plan for Box Tops earning this year? Elena Whitaker would like to get something that all kids can use...something for the playground was mentioned. A suggestion was made to have Wendy and Elena talk.

How much do Box Tops bring in? About \$1,000 each time (twice per school year). Cut-off dates are November 1, 2013 and May 1, 2014.

It was mentioned the kids can't have class parties anymore. There seems to be some confusion over this rule. Mr. Kingery is not aware this rule exists.

Karen Burns motioned to vote separately on whether to have a carnival and where the Box Tops earnings go. The motion was seconded. The group approved the motion to vote separately when motions are made.

The purpose of the carnival is for fun for the kids. There were concerns over the cost of the carnival. More information is needed. The group asked Wendy to get an estimate for the cost, as it needs to be budgeted. A suggestion was also made to talk to another school, PTA, and/or PTO to see what they have used for a vendor. The vendor must be approved by the Tigard-Tualatin School District.

The **Labels for Education** can also be used to help with supplies for PE.

GUEST: Adrenaline Fund-Raising

Some of us may know the TuHS gold card. This is a product in the **Adrenaline Fund-Raising** family.

Only one volunteer is needed to help Adrenaline, as they do most of the work. Selling is involved by students. It is the process that works so well.

Sales are done in a two week period...typical is 50-60% participation. The Adrenaline team provides a quick education session for kids and a one-sheet is provided in the packet explaining the process.

Possible earnings for TuES: \$3,700 earned for one item sold per student; 10 per student is \$46,000 in earnings. Example: Boring Elementary has 280 student that sold eight (8) per student...earnings were \$11,000. Percentage changes with amount purchased; e.g. 10 items – earn \$64

Food delivery is done by Adrenaline. They package items for each student. The prizes are with the items. Big sellers get a ride to get lunch in an H2 Limo.

Best times to sell are October and then January/February. October is out due to the Fun Run.

Amy Zuckerman motioned to do a fundraiser with Adrenaline. Motion was seconded. Comments? Suggest waiting until after the Fun Run to see how it goes. Just be sure there is time to identify the items sold, timing, etc. Jennifer Walters offered to help coordinate this fundraiser. Vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Library (Kathleen Cunnington and Jill Armstrong)

The Library is open! Eight (8) classes have gone through already.

Ms. Barnes class needs assistance – 2nd Thursday in the afternoon. Some other classes need second helpers too. See Kathleen and/or Jill. Other ways to help (there will be a table for Library support at Back to School Night):

- Purchasing committee
- Book repair
- Library cleaning/dusting

Kathleen shared there is a new media assistant – Jennifer Graves. Twenty-five (25) new books have been entered already. More than \$4,250 in new books were added from last year's funds.

Fun Run – Friday, October 4 (Cara McClung and Kelly Atkinson)

This is the largest fundraiser for the Fall; approximately \$16,000 was raised in 2012.

All students participate. The run raises money to fund programs, to get kids active/moving, and encourage school spirit. "Spirit Week" includes crazy hair day, school colors, etc.

Cara and Kelly are in the process of identifying prizes (do you know any businesses willing to do prizes?). Packets to collect donations go home in the middle of September. Students receive prizes by how much money they collect.

Kelly organizes the volunteers; sells ribbons two weeks prior to the Fun Run – 20 minutes prior to school starting, plus the day of they need volunteers for the course set-up, snacks, etc.

There will be four ribbons sold this year – show support for Mr. Kingery, Mr. Hill, Miss Meyers, and one mystery staff member!

There is a Google doc on PTA Elementary website to sign up for ribbon selling and day of activities.

On the collection envelope, items that the Fun Run funds will be added...examples are: Field Trips, Library, Sustainable Garden, Class enrichment programs, and Art Literacy.

Memory Books (Cindy Krahnke)

Cindy reported that Dorian Studios is doing the books again. The cost to produce is \$14.63 per book. There will be 200 ordered (64 pages). All books from 2012-2013 were sold, except one was returned and is available for purchase. No DVD slide show will be done this school year.

Memory Books would also like a table at Back to School Night to take per-orders. Purchase price to students/families is \$20 per book.

Cindy made a motion to use the Memory Book proceeds for TEAF. Motion was seconded and approved.

Art Literacy (Elena reported for Heather Roberts)

Volunteers are needed for Art Literacy. Sign-ups will be available at Back to School Night in the classrooms.

Scrip (Angela Tyler)

Gift cards bought through PTA can be used to purchase goods/activities: movies, shopping, home improvement, restaurants, etc. The school gets a percentage when you purchase Scrip. Starbucks and Fred Meyer cards are stocked in the office.

Scrip orders start Tuesday, September 24. For orders turned in on Tuesday morning by 9 a.m., the Scrip will be ready by Thursday afternoon.

Angela can get the orders together and organized, but needs help on Thursday for deliveries to the school. Leslie Brenton volunteered.

Staff orders are tracked and they can use the money earned to be reimbursed for items bought for the classroom. A total of \$3,000 was earned last year; PTA \$1,200 and the rest was the staff earnings...way to go TuES staff!

A question was asked if credit cards are accepted. It was found that the cost of processing the credit cards ate into the profits. It is more convenient to use the cards and sales were higher the year prior (last year was the first year that cc weren't taken.)

QUESTIONS and COMMENTS

Please send your PTA activity blurbs to Amy Zuckerman for the Bear Bulletin.

If you want to be on the agenda, please let Jill McCarty or Amie MacDonald know. If you have ideas for programs/speakers for the meetings, please share with one of the officers.

www.tualatinelementarypta.org

tualatinpta@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING (arrive at the earlier time to hear the featured speaker at the meeting):

Tuesday, October 1 – School Library

6:30 p.m. Speaker begins; 7:15 p.m. PTA meeting begins

Program/speaker: Kim DeMarchi, parenting coach, speaks at the October meeting.

Learn more about Kim at www.empoweredparenting.com and www.passporttoparenting.com .

Co-president Amie MacDonald adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Prepared by ~
Sharell Lien, Secretary

Date presented: October 1, 2013

Approved as Written or Amended

Co-president

Secretary

September Speaker – Erin Gillam

Erin Gillam, counselor and psychologist at TuES, talked about school, class, and individual behavior. We want the kids to know their expectations – what do they look like on the playground, cafeteria, and in the classroom.

Specific language is taught to the kids – first part of school, after Christmas break, and after spring break. It is important to teach/re-teach positive behavior. “I like the way you are being safe.” ... “I like the way you are being kind.”

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) are used at this school. We want to positively reinforce and teach behaviors we want to see.

Bear Paws!

Individual recognition for specific behaviors that supports kids to make good decisions.

Be Safe * Be Kind * Be Responsible

Students collect Bear Paws (or teachers for the younger kids). There are bear paw prize days with activities students can choose from to participate (usually 1:30-2 p.m. for yoga class, computer time, free recess).

Golden awards – Weekly award for class who did the best that week in each category.

- Shoe - hall
- Tray - cafeteria
- Ball - recess
- Cone – lining up in the morning in gym
- Book - library

Most class compliments come from Erin or Mr. Kingery.

When student behavior is stopping teachers from teaching, stopping the student from learning, and is stopping the other students from learning, then interventions are used.

Interventions

Bear Break (student leaves the classroom, goes to the buddy teacher)

Positive redirection (Time to Teach)

It has been found that 80% will respond to this Bear Break and for 20%, other interventions are needed. Students are asked:

- What was your behavior? I was...
- What problem did your behavior cause for you, your classmates, or our teachers? My behavior...
- What will you do next time? I will...
- I am ready to return to class. [Yes or No – buddy teacher checks this box]

Student waits outside their own classroom until regular teacher comes out at a natural break to talk about the paper/answers. The above questions are a teaching tool and are not shared with parents.

There are different levels of referral. Two warnings occur and then a Bear Break occurs (instructional specific tool) – classroom only. Third time in one day, may go to a different level.

Level 1 – Bear Break

Level 2 – Bear Warning – parent is notified

Staff fills out a form with the following information:

- Location, Problem Behavior, Possible motivation
- Others involved

- Consequence/administrative decision:
 - Bus suspension
 - Loss of privilege (recess for a few days)

Level 3 – Major Referral form (this does go home in the mail to parents; phone call as well)

- Document problem and consequence; some examples of problems:
 - property damage
 - physical aggression/harm
 - harassment/bullying
 - verbal abuse
 - forgery/theft
 - lying

Teachers work hard to keep instructional control in the rooms so they can teach their curriculum. We want student engagement and learning at its best. School should be a safe and comfortable environment for the kids to learn. Positive reinforcement is the key to help the kids.