

Meridian Park PTSA
General Meeting
October 2, 2012

Action items are in bold

Call to order:

The board meeting of the Meridian Park PTSA was called to order in the Meridian Park library at 6:36pm by PTSA President Brian Heagler. Members had been informed about the meeting through newsletter, MP and PTSA web sites, MP PTSA Facebook page and notices in Boomerangs. Those present: Rachel Ariss, Krista Keller, Adrienne Thompson, Amy Jessee, Ann Yee, Denise Dana, Emmanuel Gnanapragasm, Aileen Lu and Jodi Forschmiedt.

Welcome and Introductions:

Brian welcomed everyone and had those present introduce themselves. Brian then introduced the “new agenda” and explained that in order to keep the meetings within time constraints, High Priority Items will be handled “up front” and new business will be dealt with later in the meeting

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the General Meeting held September 4, 2012 were approved as written.

High Priority:

*Review of club protocols: the protocols are still being worked on and are getting tightened up and there will be more diligence with enforcing them. A parent volunteer in a club MUST be a PTSA member in order to be covered by our insurance.

Denise Dana was introduced and discussed some challenges with Chinese Club. The continuing class is meeting twice a week for the entire school year. There are currently eight students enrolled with another two interested. She mentioned some confusion in general about how to get clubs up and running. She suggested that there be clear guidelines regarding flyers, scholarship information, room 'rental' rates, etc.

**** Brian and Rachel will work to provide clarity of issues for liability and building a club model. They will also work on a club budget carry over limit ****

*Budget: the budget was presented and discussed. Rachel made a motion to accept the budget as written, Amy seconded. All were in favor, none opposed, motion was approved.

*Approval of bank account signers: the proposed signers are: Tracey Poole, Krista Keller, Brian Heagler and Janina Pacunski. Kathy Henderson will be removed as a signer on the account. There was a question about whether last year's signature cards would carry over to this year or if everyone needed to sign a new one.

**** Brian will contact Tracey regarding the carry over of signatures ****

*Standing Rules: Brian discussed adding the compliance with training requirements and cleaning up the Standing Rules in general. Aileen made a motion to accept the changes to the Standing Rules. Rachel seconded. All were in favor, none opposed, motion was approved.

*Fall Carnival update: Co-chairs are Susan Duthweiler, Dixie Yamane and Marla Robinson. They will be meeting soon and Brian will check if they are having Mike's band play so contracts can be started. There was also question as to whether the sixth graders would be selling pizza, soda and snacks for a camp fundraiser.

*Fall Fundraiser preview: Great American will be used again this year. We will also be doing the fundraiser from start to finish as GA recommends. On October 10th, there will be two kick

off assemblies. The fundraiser ends on October 24th with delivery set for November 19 or 20. This year the theme is penguins.

Treasurer's Report:

Krista is learning the ropes and Brian will assist with line item notations.

**** November meeting: discuss adding line item for 4th grade Olympia field trip vs. grant ****

Vice President Updates:

Clubs and Classes:

Spanish class is not on the agenda this year. Other clubs are starting to roll. Cheri and Esta will head an art club again this year and will cap the class at 20 students. Chess Club is still looking for a lead parent.

Grants:

This is Jodi's last year and Lee will take over next year. The proposals will be to the teachers by October 5th and they will have three weeks to turn them in. The committee will look them over and have recommendations at the November meeting. There is a total of \$5,000 that will, most likely, be split between fall and spring grants.

Legislation:

There is a community event on October 9 and all local elected officials are invited. The legislative assembly is on October 19-20 and Adrienne is planning to attend at least one, if not both sessions. The forecast budget has a 1/2 billion deficit. K-12 has not been funded as stated in the constitution per the McCleary Decision. The state has until 2017 to fully fund K-12 but there is not enough money in the discretionary budget to make this happen.

The state PTSA has decided to not support the charter school initiative on the November 2012 ballot due to the fact that there is no parental input regarding the schools.

Membership:

Ann reported that we have 130 members so far and \$600 in donations. Some grandparents have been joining. Last year our membership was 35%. Brian is looking to see how we rank with similar schools that have 40% free/reduced lunch populations. There was some discussion on possibly having scholarships available for those that wish to join but can't afford the fee. This will be discussed again at a later date. Amy volunteered to take a shift if there is a membership booth set up at the Fall Carnival.

Volunteers:

Aileen reported that the first phone party over the summer recruited 14 volunteers to fill needed spaces at the August car show. Last week, Aileen, Jenny Hillger and Janet Boyett left 130 messages to get volunteers for the health screening, book fair and carnival and received zero call backs. 38 volunteer forms have been returned from those sent out in Boomerangs. Quite a few have been received from families in Herold, Bentley and Kushner's classes. There seems to be a higher percentage of response from High Cap families and those in grades 4-6. There will be another round of forms targeting the K-2 families.

It was suggested that we could have membership information and someone to answer questions/recruit volunteers at the kindergarten family nights in October, December and February. Whenever we have parents gathered, we need to push membership, volunteering and PTSA business.

Amy will try to get information together for the next "Getting School Ready" event.

Events:

Car Show: a chair is needed to relieve Marty of the responsibility. We hope to have someone identified by November 1 to take over and get things rolling.

Brian mentioned that some other PTSAs are members of the Chamber of Commerce and that helps with volunteer contacts among other things. The fee for our Chamber of Commerce is \$110.

Principal's Report:

Amy reported that the non-student work day on Friday, October 5 will be used for teacher training for the new science curriculum.

Health screenings were completed today (October 2) and the make up day is Tuesday, October 23.

The Walk-a-Thon is over and is being rethought as far as whether to have it be a joint venture between ASB and PTSA. Maybe using it as the fall fundraiser as well.

Conferences are the week of October 8-12 with early dismissal on the 10th-12th.

Healthy Youth Surveys will be taken by 6th graders.

The students are assessed and small ELL/Title groups have been started. Extended kindergarten starts in November.

The positive expectations reinforcement seems to be working and will continue.

Please make sure the office gets copies of all flyers/forms that go home in the Boomerangs. It makes it easier on the office staff to know what is happening and when.

Roots of Empathy will be in 5 classrooms this year in grades one and three.

Cheetah CHAMPS (Children Have Amazing Mentor Parent Support) is getting under way. The goal is to have a CHAMP in the building each of the 180 days. They will wear an orange Cheetah CHAMPS t-shirt so they will be easily recognizable.

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

8:18 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Janina Pacunski, Secretary