

Meridian Park PTSA
Board Meeting
April 3, 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 7:06 pm by PTSA President Kathy Henderson. Members had been informed about the meeting through newsletter, MP and PTSA web sites and notices in Boomerangs. Those present: Tracey Poole, Jodi Forschmiedt, Melanie Gillespie, Brian Heagler, Susan Duthweiler, Aileen Lu, Mary Loes, Adrienne Thompson, Renee Smith, Amy Jessee, Rachel Ariss and Mary Crandell

Welcome and Introductions:

Kathy welcomed everyone and introduced Susan Duthweiler who will be taking over Drama Club next year.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the General Meetings held February 9, 2012 and March 6, 2012 were approved as written.

Standing Committee Reports:

Legislation:

Adrienne reported the special session is scheduled to end on April 10, 2012. At this point, there has been no agreement on the budget. The House proposed delaying payments to schools by one day to shift the dollars to the next budget year. The Senate proposed skipping the pension plan payment for schools. Another proposal is to change the way money goes to local governments by putting it in the general fund vs. a special fund. Policy decisions need to be made before the session ends or there could be another special session called.

Liaisons:

Rachel proposed changing the way the program is currently run. Instead of having a Liaison for each classroom, maybe one for each grade level would be more efficient and having them do the staff appreciation events. She also stated that there seems to be some confusion among both liaisons and teachers as to the role the liaisons play. Some think they are room parent, while others think they are not. There needs to be a clearly defined role. The discussion will be tabled for now.

a committee consisting of Amy, Rachel, Shannon Brown and Adrienne will convene to discuss options

Grants:

Jodi presented the information for the spring grants. The committee received only six grant applications which Jodi states is unusually low. The total dollar amount requested by the various applications totaled \$2,364 with \$1,569 available. The committee decided to fund all requests, four in part and two in full. The Grant Committee's proposal is attached to the minutes. Brian made a motion that the board accept the grant awards as proposed by the grant committee, Mary C. seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed, the motion was passed.

Communications:

Mary stated that the deadline for the Cheetah Chatter is tomorrow evening (April 4). She also mentioned the need for someone to shadow her to take over Communications since she will be moving on in a couple of years. The position requires about four hours writing and four hours of lay out each month. There are several tasks that could easily be parsed out to different people.

Volunteer Coordinator:

Aileen reported that it was quite a challenge to get volunteers for the book fair and t-shirt sales that took place during the March Open House/Science Fair. She said she recently spoke to Dona Eddy at Shorewood who mentioned that they can supply student volunteers, given enough lead time, as long as it is outside of Shorewood's normal school hours. There was some discussion about how to get volunteers and one idea was sending out information a month prior to the event through boomerangs, e-mail and phone calls.

MSP testing will take place in May and we will once again be preparing the snacks.

Tracey, Susan, Amy and Rachel will discuss the snacks with Shannon

Membership:

No report

Family Services:

Tracey reported that she just received a call that we are expected to cover hours at The Works tomorrow (April 4) and next Wednesday (April 11) from 6pm – 8pm. Tracey is covering tomorrow's shift. Tracey and Rachel will cover the shift for next week. April's donation items are shampoo and conditioner, May: deodorant, June: everything

President's Report:

Kathy reported that there is a need to streamline programs and clubs. We need to analyze each program and club that we offer/support and make sure there are parent volunteers willing to take the lead on them to take the pressure off the Programs VP. Drama Club is a great model for how clubs should be run. A smaller group/committee will be put together to determine which clubs/programs should be kept and which we should trim out.

Brian is interested in more of a “big picture” type of fund raising. The Classic Car Show brings in a lot of money, but is that going to be a viable program a few years down the road.

Brian will look into finding other options for fund raising

The Art Docent program may change to offering a lesson 3 times (once each trimester) next year. There is a need for more docents to help out in the classrooms. Each program requires 1 1/2 hours of training and then time in the classrooms to teach the program to the students. The logistics of the auction will be looked at and may change.

In Gretchen's absence, Kathy reported that May 12 is the date for this year's Embrace Shoreline. The School of Rock will be providing entertainment. April 15 is the next landscaping call, June 2 is the Neighborhood Garage Sale, and July 18 is the book sale/BBQ at Cromwell Park.

Vice President Updates:

Events:

The Classic Car Show is scheduled for August 5. The Volunteer Tea will take place after school on May 17.

Programs:

Covered in the President's Report

Treasurer's Report:

Tracey reported the Drama Club profited \$1,700. Concessions brought in \$426.40, roses \$104.00 and ticket sales were \$3598.00. Yearbook Club has brought in \$1,700 in yearbook presales. The Writing Club to be headed by Annie Gage has a balance of \$450. The Sunshine Fund of \$100 was used to purchase gifts for the teachers with new babies. \$99.59 was spent.

Brian stated we are on track to have about \$5,000 in excess funds at the end of this year.

Teacher Representative Report:

Mary L. mentioned report cards went out last week and the teachers are prepping for MSP.

Principal's Report:

Amy reminded us the DK will be leaving Meridian Park next year. The students will be integrated into their home schools. March was an extremely busy month and will need to look different on next year's calendar. One request was to make sure there is no (or very limited) homework on event nights. The Arts Festival will be on May 22nd. Amy may present a short film on the "Roots of Empathy" program at the next meeting. She is hoping to expand it to four more classrooms at a cost of about \$275.00 per classroom. This may be something she will approach the district to sponsor.

New Business:

Kathy informed us the PTA Convention is scheduled for May 4, 5 and 6 this year at the Sea Tac Red Lion. She asked if anyone may be interested in attending. Rachel expressed some interest. The cost for all three days is \$190, however is it less if only one or two days are attended. Rachel will look over the information and get back to Kathy.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Janina Pacunski, Secretary Meridian Park PTSA