

Meridian Park PTSA  
General Meeting  
January 5, 2010

**Action Items are in bold**

Call to Order :

The General Meeting of the Meridian Park PTSA was called to order in the Meridian Park library at 7:04 PM by PTSA President Brian Heagler. Members had been informed about the meeting through telephone calls, and through PTSA and school websites. Those present were : Suzanne Gugger, Melanie Gillespie, Jodi Steele, Tracey Poole, Kelly Martinez, Maya Suklan, Mary Crandell, Kathy Henderson, Renee Smith, Janina Pacunski, Brian Heagler, Amy Grady, Emmanuel Gnanapragasam, Patty Saunders, Aileen Lu, Kathy Tinoco, Amy Jessee and Lorraine Flaherty.

Secretary's Report :

Meeting minutes for December 1, 2009 were approved as written.

Vice President Updates and committee reports :

Melanie reported on fundraising and grants. There is \$2600 budgeted for grants. Eleven applications from teachers were received and the range requested is close to the amount budgeted. The committee, which has two new members, will meet later this month. Jodi asked when teachers are notified, and Melanie replied that this was likely to occur shortly after the February PTSA meeting. Brian noted that he would like to expand the applicant pool for grants, as usually the same teachers apply every time. He explained that the grant process is central to the PTSA. Melanie is hoping to go to staff meetings to discuss grants more next year. Jodi suggested that Brian send an email to teachers talking about the types of grants that were funded to give them ideas.

**After grants are awarded, Brian or Melanie will email descriptions of successful grants to Amy Jessee, who will pass on to staff.**

Amy J. wondered whether the grant deadline could be after Winter Break. Brian would like to go back to two grant cycles a year. Patty wanted to be sure that MP teachers knew about Council grants. Amy J. said the MP staff received 4 council grants this year. Suzanne mentioned that Pamela Willoughby has gotten several and has great ideas. Suzanne has been working with Pamela on these and Pamela may want someone else to help when Suzanne moves on from MP at the end of this year.

**Melanie will make a note to check in with Pamela next year about grant help.**

Melanie announced that we received \$347 from box tops.

Melanie discussed the Read a Thon. It will run 1/13/10- 2/10/10. Kathy T. will be helping Melanie with results and money counting. The goal is to make it a community building and leadership opportunity for kids. She is still recruiting student leaders. She is going to try to arrange to have older kids go read to younger kids. There will also be a book swap on 1/26/10 and 1/27/10. She needs volunteers for this and she also needs volunteers to put packets together on 1/12/10. A flyer with results will come out after Mid-Winter break. Different prizes for different levels on fundraising and reading were reviewed.

**Melanie will coordinate with Brian and Amy J. to find a date for the Magic Show.**

**Mary C. and Melanie will talk about contacts for prizes.**

**Melanie will talk with Amy J. about adding a prize of a photo with Amy J. and Cheetah to the Movie ticket prize level. These would possibly be posted in the lobby and on the website.**

**Melanie will talk with Renee about possibly buying movie tickets for prizes through Scrip.**

Brian suggested that Melanie start keeping a notebook about how to run the read a thon. Prize levels were discussed and it was agreed to switch the order for some prizes and to add a 600 min read without fundraising category to allow these kids to go to the Magic Show.

Janina made a motion to adopt the plan for the read a thon as discussed. Suzanne seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Patty presented on events. We are still looking for a helper/ liaison for the Car show.

**Brian will email Martin to ask for clarification of what he needs.**

**Tracey will talk with Steve Poole to see if he might be interested.**

Suzanne gave the legislative update. There will be 4 sign waving dates at 175<sup>th</sup> and Meridian – 1/22/10, 1/27/10, 2/3/10, and 2/8/10. Times for all 4 dates will be from 6:30 AM to 8:30 AM and from 4-6 PM. There will be a kick off event in 1/13/10 with the teachers writing postcards. There will be 2 cell phone parties at locations away from school. People will be given a list of numbers and a script. Suzanne is considering doing one at the skating party. It was suggested that the second could be at Jersey's.

**Brian will contact Jersey to look for a date for the second cell phone party.**

Suzanne reviewed what is on the ballot. If approved the High Schools should be complete by 2013. Approval will not raise property taxes. The Shoreline Historical Museum was discussed.

A motion was made by Suzanne that MP PTSA support propositions 1,2 and 3 on 2/9/10. This was seconded by Janina. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Suzanne invited people to come to Olympia for focus day on MLK day.

Tracey reported on The Works and the Food Drive. For the food drive MP donated 1079 items other than flour and 130 bags of flour. She expressed gratitude to Top Foods for donating 30 cardboard boxes for storage and transport. We will start collecting soap for the Works this month. She needs 2 volunteers to work on each of 2 Wednesdays in May – 5/12 and 5/19 from 5:30-8.

**Tracey will clarify whether kids can come and what age they have to be.**

**Mary will put this volunteer opportunity in the Newsletter.**

**Janina will check with Shannon Brown re: status of Works laundry.**

**Tracey will investigate corporate sponsorships.**

Amy G. reported on the December staff appreciation event which was a cookie exchange done by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. The next event will be in February and presented by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

Mary reported on Communications. The Newsletter deadline is next week.

**Mary will put something in the Newsletter about the Nominating Committee.**

Mary mentioned that the Briarcrest PTA has a facebook presence and recommended that we do this as well. Maya volunteered to work on this.

Financial Report :

Aileen gave the financial report. The yearbook club was added to the Budget.

President's Report :

Brian gave the President's report. At a future meeting we will need to vote in a nominating committee to identify people to serve on next year's BOD. He shared a holiday card to the PTSA from Pamela Willoughby and one from the office staff. Kinderfest will be on 1/30/10 and anyone who is interested is welcome to help. Jenny Hannibal will lead the effort to have kindergarten playdates over the summer. The Talent show is April 9<sup>th</sup>, auditions are the first week of March.

Principal's Report :

Amy J. gave the Principal's report. The parking lot is currently being modified. She expressed gratitude to Naomi Oderberg for doing the shopping for emergency food supplies. Amy J. plans to be doing one phone per month home to MP families. The first was today. She is interested in feedback. A kindergarten extension program will be running at MP from January to June for approximately 10 kids. It will run 2 extra hours a day. There are 4 other schools doing this as well. She announced that two teachers are expecting children this spring, Annie Sitzenstock and Jennifer Parks.

Kathy H. reminded everyone that the Reflections reception is on 1/6/10.

Adjournment :

Meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Lorraine M. Flaherty, secretary