

Meridian Park PTSA
Board Meeting
October 6, 2009

Action items are in bold

Call to Order :

The Board Meeting of the Meridian Park PTSA was called to order in the Meridian Park school library at 7:03 PM by PTSA president Brian Heagler. Members had been informed about the meeting through flyers sent home in the boomerang and through the PTSA and school websites. Those present were : Patty Sanders, Melanie Gillespie, Brian Heagler, E.K. Gnanapragasam, Amy Stensrud, Suzanne Gugger, Amy Jessee, Kathy Tinoco, Mary Loes, Ann Yee, Kelly Martinez, Aileen Lu, Amy Grady, Kathy Henderson and Lorraine Flaherty.

Welcome and Introductions :

Brian introduced Mary Loes and advised the group that she and Jodi Steele would be alternating in the teacher representative role. Everyone present then introduced themselves and outlined their roles in the PTSA.

Secretary's report :

Lorraine alerted those present of a minor change in the minutes made at the suggestion of Todd Crandell, specifically that the PTSA was authorizing our legislative representative to vote her conscience. No other corrections were made. Amy S. made a motion to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded by Patty. All were in favor, none opposed and minutes from 9/24/09 were approved.

Vice President Updates and Committee Reports :

Amy S. reported on the fall carnival. She stated that a flyer would be going home in the boomerang tomorrow and a sign up sheet will be set up in the lobby. She stated that volunteers and raffle prizes were still needed, and that info would be sent to the PTSA liaisons. She mentioned that Connie Berkbigler was in charge of games and Dixie Yamane was in charge of cafeteria activities. There will be no candy for prizes, the only candy will be at the candy walk. She will be putting up a display advertising the carnival once the fundraiser is over. She realized that she forgot to put candy bars on the list going home.

Amy S. will add candy bars to the next flyer.

The 1st flyer will have all the info on the carnival, emphasizing explaining the event to new MP families. The 2nd flyer will emphasize volunteers and donations. The 3rd flyer will emphasize bringing pies, candy bars and coming in costume if desired.

Suzanne noted that the 6th graders will be doing a fundraiser for camp at the carnival, selling pizza, pop, juice and limited candy and baked goods. She stated that there are a lot of student volunteers.

Amy S. is trying to capture the info on the positions on the carnival team to go forward for next year. She will be creating a notebook of procedures, amount of money needed and other important info.

Suzanne will add 6th grade carnival fundraiser info to the carnival notebook.

Suzanne, Brian, Lorraine and others present discussed how the money raised goes toward camp. Amy J. noted that this may need to be changed in the next few years.

Suzanne is working on putting together a 6th grade camp book.

The group discussed options for funding camp, for example full or partial scholarships or raising money for one's own camp fund. Patty recommended that we try to get the number of scholarships needed know early. She suggested that we ask the teachers to check with each parent at conferences. She recommended that scholarship forms be filled out ASAP. Brian suggested that as a group we need to understand the process better due to decreasing funds available. He advised the group the 6th grade camp is not a PTSA program but the PTSA assists in funding, although at a lower level than in the past. Amy J. suggested that applications be completed at camp info night instead as the teachers have a lot to cover and limited time during conferences. Patty noted that it has been difficult in the past to get ELL families to camp info night.

Kathy will look into finding out more about scholarships, the application process and estimating how many scholarships might be needed.

Suzanne will check with Mary Crandell about putting something in the Cheetah Chatter about pizza being available at the fall carnival.

Suzanne will look into doing further pizza fundraisers such as at Open House.

Patty noted that many events are already completed. Kathy is working on Reflections. The next big event after that is the Talent show.

Patty will be taking the big events and dividing them up into jobs and start recruiting for next years.

Brian advised Board Members that they need to recruit to replace themselves if they will not be returning to their current jobs next year.

Melanie will work with Patty on breaking down fundraising jobs for next year.

Kelly asked if names for replacements needed to be approved by the board or the membership. Brian responded that the nominating committee is only required for EC. The president has the authority to appoint committee chairs. He feels that the standing rules overhaul may need to address this.

Melanie gave the fundraising update. The fall fundraiser ends in 2 days. Melanie asked Amy G. about her email list for reminders. It was suggested that Mary Crandell has a good list.

Melanie will email Mary to ask her to send out a fundraiser reminder on her email list.

Reminders will also be in the boomerang. A small group will be meeting on 10/9 to add up the orders.

Melanie will be heading readathon this year. She is still working on the timing of readathon.

Melanie will go to a staff meeting to discuss the readathon.

Melanie will speak to Ms. Phelan and Ms. Sezate about global reading challenge to see if the activities should/could be coordinated.

Melanie asked for volunteers to help with readathon. She may be doing a short after school club re: readathon student leadership.

Melanie is going to look into possible ELL activity grant funding.

Suzanne suggested looking at Shoreline Schools foundation for grants.

Melanie will be rolling out grant process soon.

Amy G. presented on volunteers/liaisons - there are still 5 classrooms without liaisons.

Amy G. will email teachers who don't have liaisons to get suggestions and/or have them send home a flyer.

Amy G. will set up a meeting for liaisons.

Patty and Amy G. announced that 5th grade will host the December staff appreciation event. Amy G. will be looking for other liaisons to organize future staff appreciation events. Brian suggested that we create a "liaison playbook." Kelly wondered if PE and music teachers needed their own liaisons. Amy G. will be preparing a volunteer form to send home in the boomerang. It was sent around the table at the meeting to ask for further ideas to add. Many present at the meeting made suggestions in writing. Amy G. is also creating a spreadsheet of volunteers and their interests/availability.

Amy G. will email a copy of the volunteer form to board members for feedback.

Brian will work with the EC to brainstorm on volunteer recruitment.

Kelly mentioned that they are still looking for bookfair volunteers, especially for Friday night during the festival.

Kathy H. discussed Reflections. She will be going to the staff meeting on 10/7 to discuss. She will try to hang entries by the carnival. There will be a one day afterschool activity to work on pieces to enter and a flyer about this will go home in the boomerang on 10/7/09. She is looking for judges, and it will be approximately a one hour time commitment.

Patty and Suzanne will give Kathy H. contact info on possible judges.

Suzanne gave the legislative update. She needs someone to shadow her for next year. She discussed the 2 year WASTATEPTA platform, which has 12 items, rank ordered. #1 is basic education funding. WASTATEPTA voted to form a quality education council, to add early learning to definition of basic ed and added highly capable programs back into the definition of basic ed. They also voted on a rational approach to teacher compensation. There were 4 new things on the platform, high cap funding and music and art as basic ed passed. Putting education first did not, mainly out of a concern of pitting education against social services funding. Weighted GPA went back to committee because honors classes are not standardized. Suzanne also discussed Focus Day which will be held on MLK day. She advised us that bond and levy committees are meeting this month re: Shorewood and Shorecrest building plans. She also discussed I- 1033 and advised us that WASTATEPTA is encouraging a vote against it. She advised us that as a board we could vote to take a position against I-1033, but in order to do that at tonight's meeting we must first vote 10 day notice required for PTSA voting. Patty made a motion to wave this 10 day notice, Melanie seconded the motion. None were opposed and the motion was carried. Patty then made a motion for the board to take a position against I-1033. This was seconded by Melanie. None were opposed and the motion was carried.

Suzanne will write an article for the Cheetah Chatter about the board position on I-1033.

Suzanne will put together a legislation notebook.

Brian will try to find last year's notebook.

Suzanne advised the group of the recommendation to call her position Advocacy chair vs. legislative chair.

Kathy T. gave the membership report. We are at the bronze level with more than 50% of last year's members renewing by Sept 30th. She thanked Amy S. for entering names. Kathy T. reported that \$1000 in donations were received by people using the higher membership levels. There was one \$200 donation to the PTSA from a family. It was suggested that they be given a MP T shirt as a thank you.

Kathy T. will get a T shirt to that family and will send a thank you note.

It was reported that the total # of memberships is still down from last year.

Financial Report :

Aileen gave the financial report. \$16 raised from a 2nd grader selling lemonade was donated to the PTSA.

Aileen will email Mary to get this in the Newsletter.

Kelly will get a picture of the student for the newsletter.

Aileen expressed gratitude to Beth Paul and Janina Pacunski for helping her get materials and for making copies. Brian encouraged all of us to check the treasurer's box when we are around to help with this although a system with Janina is already in place. Aileen has created a line item for basic memberships vs. membership donations. She has also created a spreadsheet outlining profit and loss by club and fundraising activity. She discussed scrip results. She advised us that our bank encouraged us to consider online banking for early notification of bounced checks. She asked if the board was interested in this and whether there was a protocol in place for doing this. Two people are required to sign transaction. Melanie suggested email alerts.

Aileen will look into options with the bank,online view only or email alerts.

Aileen questioned whether teachers can use staff grant money to pay people. Amy J. stated that it is not possible to use PTSA money to pay staff during the school day. Mary suggested that HS students could help the band teacher.

Amy J. will email Mrs. McDavid to suggest this and let her know about the funding.

Emmanuel got a quote for the directory within our budget and it will go to the printer on 10/7. He will get 600 copies, which will leave us about 50 extra. Extra copies can be sent back to the school, (families with 3 children at MP who only want 1 directory), and will be placed in a box behind Jill's desk in the office for families that need an extra.

Lorraine will email Mary to ask her to put that in the Cheetah Chatter.

Lorraine will email Jill about the box.

Principal's Report

Amy J. advised the group that Jill must get a copy of everything that goes in the boomerang. She discussed the new math assessment and advised us that the newsletter coming home this week would have more info. The school has finished most of the hiring this year.

Adjournment -

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Lorraine M. Flaherty, secretary