

John Muir PTA Meeting Minutes
8/25/2010

In Attendance: Ellen Eskenazi, President
Awnie Thompson, Principal
Greg Wong, Vice-President
Michael Wolfe, Secretary
Lara Macklin, Fundraising Chair
Marni Seneker, Membership Co-Chair
Lisa Love, Membership Co-Chair
Liz Stead, Membership Co-Chair

Principal's Report: Muir will be hiring a new 1st grade teacher, this will be a new hire not a recall of a furloughed teacher. The school will have approximately 370 families with 400 students for the 2010-2011 year. The classroom makeup will be 3 Kindergarten, 3 1st Grade, 3 2nd Grade, 2 3rd Grade, 2 4th Grade and 3 5th Grade classrooms.

Teacher PTA Rep.: The teacher representative to the PTA has yet to be determined, Awnie proposed either a single representative year long, or a rotating representative so there could be involvement from more teachers.

After discussion the consensus was for a single representative so as to maintain continuity of dialogue throughout the year.

Playground Project: Michael and Ellen reported that the playground project is looking good. We were awarded the Department of Neighborhoods Matching Funds Large Project Grant of \$48,000. The Parks Opportunity Fund Grant Application is in consideration by the Parks Levy Oversight Committee and reports from sources indicate we have a strong application. A grant request to the Norcliff Foundation for \$35,000 was submitted, primarily to be used as match for the DoN Grant.

Day in the Park: Lara reported that the Mount Baker Day in the Park is on Sept. 11 from 10:30am – 3:00pm. Muir PTA will have booth and will be doing some outreach for the playground project and the school plus some fundraising. Activities will include a Make your own Trail Mix, a Mini-Muffin Cake Walk, and a Raffle. Raffle will be \$1 per ticket and the prizes will include both adult and kid prizes. A Donation Jar will be present at the Trail-Mix and Cake Walk areas Major objectives for the booth are to collect names, address and e-mails from members of the community, and to raise a modest amount of money.

Walkathon: The final total for the Walk-a-thon was just over \$9600 raised.

Fruit Drying: Muir has about 7 families who are just completing a class in Fruit drying with a few families from Orca K-8. Purpose of these classes is so these families can dry seasonal fruit and donates the dried fruit to the school for healthy snacks through the Eat Better Feel Better program. However these families will loose access to the fruit dryers once the classes end.

The motion by Lara is to have the PTA purchase 3 Fruit Dryers for a cost of approximately \$75 for these families to use throughout the year. The motion was seconded by Michael. Minimal further discussion was had and the vote was unanimous of those present.

Website: Greg reported that the new website www.themuirpta.org is progressing well. The desire is to keep the site simple to maintain and update so future PTA members will be able to use it effectively. There is a need for feedback on the content of the site, contact Greg with any feedback. Also Greg needs photos that have been approved for public use for the website. There are a variety of new email addresses associated with the website that will be forwarded to certain PTA members (listed at end of Minutes). Membership form needs to be on the website.

There still needs to be some action taken on the old yahoo group to have this contact information contained in the new website's email database, Greg and Lara to coordinate.

Prospective Parents: There is a need for a system to connect perspective parents with current parents. Right now Greg is the only contact.

Consensus is that this task needs to be a unique role on the PTA, for now Marni will take on this role.

Membership: Marni, Liz and Lisa Reported on Membership. Growth in number and diversity is a need and goal for this year. Barrier to membership is reluctance to join because of an expectation of volunteering. Need to communicate the value of membership, including Reading is Fundamental, financial support to teachers, Classroom support, etc. Also there is a need for transparency in quantifying where the money goes. Ideas for how to attract new members included, competition between classroom for most PTA members, add programmatic content to the meetings either monthly or quarterly so the meetings are not solely business meetings. Consensus among those present that further discussion with a larger group is necessary.

A printing of Thank You cards is needed, the Membership Committee will design and Lara will have them printed.

Miscellaneous: Ellen to send September volunteer opportunities text to Rachel for distribution to volunteers.

Ellen to send article for 1st Home Bulletin to Awnie.

Reminder to parents needed to do e-script renewals on Safeway Club Cards

Ellen to explore and discuss alterative reporting options to shorten meeting times.

Adjournment: 8:00pm

Notes:

Votes and action items are underlined.

Email address and who they forward to for @themuirpta.org. If any additional are needed contact Greg.

Board@ - entire PTA board

Donate@ - to Carol and Ellen

Fundraising@ - to Lara

Volunteer@ - to Rachel

Membership@ - to membership co-chairs

Info@ - to Ellen

Muir@ - to all addresses in database

Playground@ - to Jenny Ott and Jin Le

PlaygroundDonation@ - to Ellen and Carol

President@ - to Ellen