

John Muir Elementary PTA Meeting Minutes 1-13-2011

Called to order 6:10pm

Attendees see sign-in sheet on file

December Minutes Adopted

Calendar for January and February see agenda filed

Principals Report

- Equity and family engagement team reviewed multicultural night and assembly. Issue is some people can attend the evening pot luck and not daytime assembly looking into way for crossover.
- Pat Lyon is on long term leave. Have long term sub. That should be able to be here until end of year
- Budget news in Feb. Anticipating growth by 1 classroom at the 3rd grade level.
- Do we want Mandarin teachers for next year? If so we need to look for host families. Current 5th graders started Mandarin in 1st grade. Washington MS has Saturday Mandarin program and world language program. If they add Mandarin to world language program they have to take something away. Have current host families write an article for the home bulletin to encourage other families to volunteer - Noel will work with Awnie.
- School assignment plan- not anticipating any changes for next year - our boundaries are small due to residential nature of neighborhood and Spectrum; also anticipating room for incoming K siblings
- Over Winter Break broken fan in boys bathroom was fixed. Custodial services did deep clean. Regular custodian now back to work and is doing appropriate maintenance.
- School Tours - no longer doing tours, instead doing two information sessions. March 2 & 8, first is in the evening and the second is during the day. PTA can help by sharing the word about the info sessions with community. And to have PTA members present to answer questions. Will still let parents to come on there own time to observe classrooms.
- donorsChoose.org Noemi is only teacher that has anything on the site.

Legislative Report - Noel

- Legislative focus day is Feb 21 in Olympia.
- Leg hotline 800-562-6000.
- In Supplemental Budget eliminated state funding for gifted programs which will eliminate staff and things like Spectrum Testing.

Treasurer's Report - Carol

- At 50% of Budget for both income and expenses.
- We are just short of dollar goal for annual fund but very low participation.
- Picture day made \$620.
- More teachers have submitted for their classroom funds than this time last year.
- There was an anonymous donation of \$5000 toward the Islandwood trip.

Fundraising Report - Lara

- 99% toward playground funding.
- Cash on hand & pledged looks good
- Need more work and confirmation on how much volunteer hours we have and could actually use.
- Will have to specify in RFP for bidders to identify where volunteer labor can be used.
- Will be picking up some other local grant applications to try to secure additional funding.
- Fundraising committee is backing off playground and coming back to focus on raising for general funds.
- Thinking about recalculating the ask letter to raise participation even though we are very close to dollar goal.
- PNO was a great success, next one is Feb 4.
- E-Script and box tops are ongoing.
- Penny Harvest raised \$2100

Positive Discipline Special Topic Meeting

- Parent led special topic meeting bringing in *Positive Discipline* to do their program for the parents. Would be focused on parents to use in their homes with children. This is workshop not just a lecture. Workshop is 2 hours and we could partner with another school (Orca) to reduce cost. Open to teachers, so that they can also see in a non abstract manner the *Positive Discipline* procedures.
- If this is something the staff was interested in would PTA offer support to bring in *Positive Discipline* to do staff training. Trainers will want to meet in advance with Principle and BLT prior to training.
- Reaction to district program Positive Behavior System has been very mixed. District is still punishment / reward focused.
- Carol to try to schedule workshop for March 10. In Feb and Mar home bulletin and kid mail.

Walk on topic - Bathroom Maintenance Issues

- Christina brought ideas on helping make the kids aware of maintenance of their own facilities.
- Agreed that signage is the way to go.
- Suggested incorporating cleanliness into classroom instruction.
- King County Public Health has great nonverbal signs for hand washing etc.
- Need to have more monitoring of the bathroom.
- Suggestion to incorporate bathroom behavior into the star/self manager program.
- Next steps for bathroom:
 - need signs with positive language and highly visual.
 - Christina and Awnie need to meet to decide on which signs and how to involve the kids and teachers.
 - Christina to procure the signs.
 - Report back at Feb meeting.

Table Nomination Committee Process – Ellen

- WSPTA specifies PTA Board members elected by April.
- We will need to establish a nominating committee the PTA President cannot be on the committee.
- Needs to be a group that can keep confidential information.

Wether PTA Conference Feb 5

Anyone interested see Ellen

Adjourned 7:59pm