

**John Muir Elementary PTA
Minutes for 10-14-2010 Meeting
John Muir Elementary Library**

Called to Order at 6:10

9-9-2010 Minutes Approved unanimous

15 Attendees, sign in sheet on file with Secretary

October/November calendar review see addendum - Ellen Eskenazi

- Islandwood fundraising ends October 19
- 18 November special date for PTA meeting due to Veteran's Day holiday.
 - Special topic is standardized testing.
 - Need a volunteer to coordinate food.
 - Awnie will be our speaker as she is very knowledgeable on the topic.
 - Need to be clear that the topic will cover all testing not just gifted and advanced placement.
 - 50 people would be considered a good turn out.
- Parents Night Out Dec 3, Feb 11, Apr 8, and Jun 3, Lara and Debbie Terrill are the leads, with the desire for Debbie to take over from Lara.

Green Feet Project Status Report - Jen Cole

- 12 months have past since the start of the project.
- The grant will expire on 31 December 2010.
- Walking Wednesdays every Wednesday in October.
- Percentage of students who:
 - Walk to school: 2009 - 17% 2010 - 22%
 - Drive in family vehicle: 2009 - 47% 2010 - 44%
- Possible UW city wide study on how the new Neighborhood School Assignment plan changes walk habits to get to school.
- Conducted an observation of car patterns around the school to identify and solve problem areas.
- Working with SDOT to change drop-off flow to S Hinds St.
- Created and deployed the A-frame signs directing parents to drop-off areas.
- Jen will communicate request to Rachel to get volunteers to do another observation of car traffic and find out if there has been any successes in identified problem areas.

Teacher's Report - Pat Lyon

- Book fair was a success teachers were able to buy two iHomes with credits from book orders and book fair to use in class to listen to audio books.
- Math Fest the teachers and students want the trophy to come back for a second year.

- Discussion on increasing teacher participation in membership of PTA.

Fundraising Report - Lara Macklin

- Committee met last Thursday (7 Oct.)
- Big push to get playground project flyers out in a neighborhood canvass.
 - Putting packets together in bunches of 50 or 100 to give to neighborhood residents for volunteer distribution.
 - Target date is end of October.
 - November 17 is last day for public comment on the Playground Project to the Parks Levy Oversight Committee.
- Ask Letter is coming up in Nov.
 - Maria Kolby-Wolfe will be coordinating with the teachers to try to personalize the letters to each grade by finding out what each teacher used their PTA funds for.
 - Will include link to online fundraising
 - Need a good old fashioned thermometer of progress- Lisa will do.
 - Week of 15 Nov get letter into kid mail.
 - Personal follow up after thanksgiving.
- Feb event planning is in process. One idea is a dinner and a show trying to get Teatro Zinzani or Mr. Magix.
- Ellen will talk about laws surrounding fundraising at next fundraising meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Carol Rava-Treat (copy on file with Secretary)

- Met dollar amount for membership
- 2010 Donation line includes corporate matches from donations given last year.
- Proposal to give field trip scholarship money directly to school tabled for future discussion surrounding giving money directly to school between Ellen, Carol and Awnie.

Membership Committee Report – Lisa Love

- Had fun with Liz writing thank you notes.
- October is deadline to pay WSPTA dues.
- Need to put the membership dues scholarship request back on the membership form.
- Suggestion for communicating how many scholarship dollars are available and soliciting new members.

Legislative Report - Noel Nightengale and Michael Wolfe

- Important to vote yes on school levy more from Greg later in meeting
- Legislative Assembly was Oct. 8-9 in SeaTac.
 - WSPTA Legislative Priorities can be found here:
http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/headlines/Issue_Results_2010.pdf
 - Descriptions of the Issues can be found here:
http://www.wastatepta.org/meetings/leg_assembly/Issues_Guide_2010.pdf

- The Assembly was fun and informative and Muir PTA should strive to send 2 representatives every year.

Volunteer Coordinator Report - Rachel Van DeMark

- Continuing to work on the directory and volunteer list.
- Currently there are 296 individual emails on the list serve.
- Experience shows that the second ask for help on an event is the most effective in eliciting positive responses.
- Kim Frappier has done great work getting the Class Rep. program going.
- Class Reps. can only call numbers in the directory but there are ways to get the non-directory parents information (kid-mail)
- Directory will be out soon, goal is end of October.
- Rachel will compile a how-to for the directory after it is completed.

Playground Committee Report - Jin Lee

- Key date is October 25 Parks Levy Oversight Committee public hearing.
- Project is conditionally on the Draft Final List for the Parks Opportunity Fund (POF) grant.
- Hearing starts at 7pm at Miller Community Center (Cap. Hill).
- Project is conditional because when the committee came for the site visit the playground was locked.
- Important theme is community involvement.
- Will be a Kid Mail letter going out next Wednesday and email will go out tomorrow. Jenny, Awnie and Louis will speak at hearing.
- Next playground committee meeting will be a strategy/rehearsal meeting on October 18.

General Meeting Topic updates - Ellen Eskenazi and Carol Rava-Treat

- Positive discipline to be the winter project to give everyone time to get settled in to the school year and familiar with the Be A Star program.
- Important for this topic to be after the November parent - teacher conferences, target date January.
- During meeting more information on the Be a Star program will be communicated.
- Teachers input is needed.
- We need to be careful when presenting to know our audience. The conversation needs to be thoughtful and careful.
- Changing Bodies topic no work done yet some discussion with Ms Schorr. Lisa Love will help coordinate.

School Levy Vote on Nov. 2 - Greg Wong

- Usually school levies are on three year cycles voting in February.

- State cut funds from education but lifted the levy lid temporarily so schools could back fill cuts.
- Temporary levies are not an ideal way to fund schools but there aren't many other options.
- Seattle Public Schools is facing \$32m cuts from State plus a \$28m budget deficit.
- Levy will raise \$48.2 million over 3 years.
- Motion to endorse Levy – made by Greg, Noel seconded - unanimous approval
- Motion to donate \$100 to Schools First - made by Michael, Liz seconded - unanimous approval
- Communicate endorsement on website - Greg to do.

Adjourned at 7:58pm