

## SES PTSA Board Meeting Minutes October 12, 2011

The meeting convened at approximately 6:30 p.m. on October 12, 2011 in the SES auditorium. The following people attended the meeting:

Cindi Carrell  
Matthew Latterell  
Rebecca Wagner  
Gina Binole  
Eric Herr -  
Liz Hardy  
Heidi McNamee  
Elizabeth Levi  
Britt Stoller  
Chena Mesling  
Mario Galindo  
Neeley Wells  
Mike Bray  
Dana Buhl  
Dan Keppler

### 1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September \_\_, 2011 board meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

### 2. Read-A-Thon Fundraiser

Eric Herr is one of the SES parents organizing the Read-A-Thon fundraiser this year. He made a brief presentation to the board regarding the status of Read-A-Thon followed by a request that the start date of the fundraiser be moved from late October to February 9-16.

Eric advanced concerns about extensive fundraising activities occurring at SES and other schools during a three-month period this Fall resulting in fundraising fatigue. He pointed out that the annual wreath and poinsettia sale occurs shortly after the time slated for the Read-A-Thon, He noted that he is the parent of students at SES, Winterhaven, and Cleveland, each of which has extensive Fall fundraisers. Also the SES

In addition, Eric explained if the Read-A-Thon occurred in the spring, there would be an opportunity to expand the event to include some new ideas, such as involving some local bookstores or having the poet laureate speak. His group has also considered a mid-February theme of "I 'heart' to read."

Members of the board conducted an extensive discussion of the pros and cons of moving the Read-a-Thon. Chief among the concerns board members expressed was that the Read-A-Thon would occur too close in time to the Run-Walk fundraiser, which uses a similar fundraising methodology involving obtaining pledges from family friends and relatives. There was a discussion of the various circles of donors that different fundraisers reach and the need to reach outside the SES community for fundraising. The point was made that some kids prefer to read while other prefer to run, so that the

sources of the two fundraisers may actually be different. A similar point was made with respect to the Taste of Sunnyside event, which generally involves adult members of the SES community.

In the past, the PTSA has needed to conduct substantial fundraising in the Fall so that it had funds on hand to for Spring budget items. This year, due in part to the success of the Fall Ask, the financial condition of the PTSA is such that the budget is funded for entire school year. Thus, the consensus among board members was that this would be a good year to try moving and expanding the event.

A motion was made and seconded to move the Read-A-Thon to February 8 to 17. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

### 3. Harvest Faire

Britt Stoller addressed the status of Harvest Faire planning. She said that it is “crunch time” and that the Harvest Faire planning committee needs a total of 45 volunteers and currently have 30 signed up. She noted that the committee received 18 volunteers through the volunteer survey and that others came through room parents. Brit indicated that they need more dinner servers and final cleanup. She requested that an alert be put in the messenger requesting additional volunteers. Middle schoolers will be bussing tables and running carnival games. A request has gone out for toy prizes. There will be two tables of ticket sellers.

The food at Harvest Faire will consist of focaccia vegetarian course and grilled sausages for the meat main course. A person from PPS nutrition services will be present to oversee the SES kitchen. Harvest Faire is scheduled from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 22.

### 4. New Stoves

Cindi described action by the board’s executive committee to use \$350 in discretionary funds to purchase new stoves for the community kitchen. PTSA had received donations to cover the remaining costs of the stoves that were purchased at a discount.

### 5. SE Uplift Grant Proposal

On behalf of the safety committee (aka RockNRoll Committee), Dana requested that the board endorse a grant request to Southeast Uplift organization to fund materials for an outdoor disaster dinner event to simulate a neighborhood response to a natural disaster.. The grant could cover the cost of purchasing large cooking pots, tarps and other materials that could be used for the event then permanently stored for use in case of an actual disaster. Part of the idea would be to foster improved relations among people and organizations in the neighborhood including SES, the Sunnyside Neighborhood Assoc., and the Swap Shop. The Sunnyside Methodist church may be able to provide a dedicated storage area for the emergency supplies purchased.

The grant application is due November 1. PTSA would be the grant applicant and would then reach out to the other organizations if it receives the grant. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal as described by Dana. It passed unanimously by a voice vote.

## 6. Other Safety Committee Updates

Dana also gave an update on other activities of the safety committee. Several members of that committee along with SES administration conducted a walk-through of the school with PPS architects that she described as reassuring and sobering. The committee had a meeting with Amy about the school plan. There is also a proposal being developed to partner with another school for seismic upgrades and other issues.

There was a discussion regarding how PTSA should appropriately communicate with the SES community about seismic issues and to have our communications governed by facts rather than fear. Several board members wanted to clarify that the PTSA's role in this area is not to make policy but to facilitate a conversation among parents, administration, and PPS. The work of the safety committee has been the product of interested parents and the administration joining together to examine these issues with the PTSA acting to facilitate communications.

There was a discussion about making "safety and resilience" a standing committee to include both emergency preparedness as well as other issues involving maintaining safe and healthy environments for children at SES. A motion was made and seconded to add safety and resilience committee as a standing committee of the board and for the chair to be a voting member of the board. It passed by a unanimous voice vote.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

Cindi gave a report on the current state of the PTSA's finances in which she also mentioned the discretionary funds used to buy new stoves. She also proposed that up to \$300 be used to buy food for events and meetings and up to \$100 in discretionary funds be used for speaker thank you gifts. Motions were made and seconded and passed by a voice vote.

There was discussion of the creation of school-wide "go fund" for overnight trips that would replace class and individual fundraising for school trips. This concept was initially raised by Amy and discussed in prior board meetings. There would be no more "banking" of fundraising efforts. It was expected that PTSA may need to double the amount it previously committed for school trips but we do not know exactly what the need is. There was discussion among the board about current fundraising efforts including the Kleenex fundraiser, scrip sales, and wreath and poinsettia sales. A motion to support the go fund concept was made, seconded, and passed on a unanimous voice vote.

## 8. Wreath and Poinsettia Sales

The board discussed the upcoming wreath and poinsettia sales will commence soon. An effort will be made this year to sell to local business and expand the sales outside of the immediate SES community.

## 9. Video Yearbook Fundraiser

A SES parent contacted PTSA through the website. He is a video producer and has suggested he create a video yearbook for the middle school and sell DVDs as a fundraiser. He would perhaps involve middle schoolers in the production process. He has done a similar documentary project at other schools with some success and spoke with Rebecca about the idea. The board consensus was to support this idea.