

PTSA Board Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

The following people attended the meeting:

Heidi McNamee, Beth Azar, Neeley Wells, Elizabeth Levy, Chena Mesling, Liz Hardy, Brit Stoller, Amy Kleiner, Matthew Latterell, Gina Binole, Robin May, Dana Buhl, Mike Bray, Mario Galido, Caitlin Quinn, Jens (student teacher), Daniel (student teacher),

1. Spring Musical

Caitlin gave a presentation on the spring musical, which she will direct this year. She explained that after considering possible musical scripts and the corresponding royalty fees, she decided that the best way to showcase as much student talent as possible would be to write our own musical: “SES, the Musical.” She characterized her approach to the musical with five words: creativity, collaboration, community, compromise, and completion.

The musical will adopt public-domain songs and the participants will write new ones. She explained that her approach will be a process-oriented, theater class model where no child is excluded and where participating students will have a positive experience. She hopes for enthusiastic student volunteers to write the show. Caitlin expects to use parent and high school volunteers throughout the process.

There will be an introductory meeting on December 15 and a low pressure, non-audition “audition” on January 10. The tentative dates for performances are April 27, 28, and 29. Rehearsals will occur Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. Caitlin will establish a blog to provide updated information about the musical. A discussion ensued among Board members whether Caitlin should consider having more of fewer than 3 shows. Members of the PTSA Board offered volunteer and support for the musical.

2. Tree Recycling Fundraiser

Mario has agreed to oversee the middle school tree recycling fundraiser this year and gave the Board a status update. The fundraiser will occur on Sat. Jan 7th and Sun. Jan. 8th at SES. Volunteer shifts are 8-12 and 12-4:30 both days. The largest volunteer need is for pick-up trucks and drivers. In addition to processing trees, Mario needs volunteers to sell coffee and doughnuts. Tree pickup will be limited by zip code. A sign-up sheet will be circulated around the middle school. Volunteers should bring loppers. Mario raised an issue concerning the need for a second dumpster and the required size. He also raised an issue about whether the revenue from this fundraiser is adequate to justify the labor involved.

3. Safety Committee

Dana gave a status report on the Safety Committee and related matters. Oregon PTA has adopted resolutions to seek more funding and to support action to make Oregon schools earthquake safe. A group called Oregon Parents for Quake Resistant Schools is attempting to raise awareness and capitalize on the March 11 anniversary of the Japanese quake and tsunami. Their plan is to present a petition to the governor. Dana asked if the PTSA would endorse and circulate the petition approved by Oregon PTA.

A motion was made and seconded to support and approve circulation of the petition that is supported by Oregon PTA with an appropriate cover letter. The Board approved the motion unanimously by a voice vote.

The Board engaged in further discussion about seismic and emergency preparedness education. Amy currently attends FEMA-sponsored emergency preparedness trainings organized for PPS administrators. The PTSA is considering having a Red Cross presentation on earthquake preparedness and drills as part of its spring general meeting.

Dana further reported that the disaster dinner her group has been planning is slated for March 10. She expects to talk to the Portland Office of Emergency Management, Red Cross and other organizations regarding possible participation. However, PTSA will not know until January 11 whether we received the sponsoring grant from Southeast Uplift to fund the event.

Dana participated in a walkthrough of SES with two PPS architects from facilities and who are trying to determine whether the walls are reinforced concrete. She understands PPS facilities is trying to find a partner school to jointly engage with SES in a seismic upgrade project. She just wrote to the head of PPS facilities about that prospect. She noted that there will be upcoming PPS public meetings concerning facilities issues and bond issues that will provide a chance for concerned parents to voice their opinions.

4. Treasurer's Report

Cindi passed out budget information reported that PTSA has done well on the back-to-school ask this year. However, the wreath and poinsettia sale did not make as much money as in prior years: \$3200. Nevertheless, we still have some outstanding receivables from that fundraiser.

Cindi announced that there will be a change in the financial agent who pays Michelle, the sustainability coordinator. The change will be from Myriad Growers to the Learning Garden institute.

5. Fundraising Report.

Mathew has been raising money from Hawthorne Hophouse that is partly earmarked for choir. Mathew reported that a person had been found to lead the choir. He has also scheduled a number of other restaurant fundraising events. Matthew is currently considering various event spaces for the Taste of Sunnyside fundraiser, including the Norse Hall and the former location of Wild Oats on Division.

6. Other Matters / Announcements

Elizabeth is putting together a Google group for the community kitchen that may include an online cookbook.

There are new tags for the SES giving tree. Ryan is holding workshops through PPS on cyber safety and antibullying.

The Board's nominating committee is working on recruiting new people for next years' Board. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8 p.m.