

## **PTSA Board Meeting Minutes -- February 8, 2012**

The following people attended the Board meeting:

Michael Jansa, Chena Mesling, Elizabeth Levi, Dana Buhl, Cindi Carrell, Matthew Latterell, Heidi, McNamee, Mike Bray, Neeley Wells, Dan Keppler

The meeting commenced at approximately 6:35 p.m.

Heidi began by welcoming middle school teacher Michael to the board as our second teacher representative.

### **1. Board Meeting Minute Approval**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2012 PTSA meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The Board held a discussion regarding missing minutes from the November 9, 2011 meeting. A motion was made to approve the agenda of the November 9, 2011 meeting with several handwritten additions as a substitution for those minutes. The additions included motions approved by the Board regarding proposed budget changes to arts and teacher grants, endorsement of the administration's decision to hire a new director for the fall musical. The other additional items included a discussion of the tree recycling and equity retreat.

A motion to approve the revised minutes for November 9, 2011 board meeting was made and seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

### **2. Sustainability Coordinator**

Heidi reported that a contract between Learning Gardens Institute was signed by all parties and waiting for approval from PPS. Vinnie has been performing sustainability tasks acting as an independent contractor of the PTSA for about a month. He will now be a subcontractor of Learning Gardens Institute.

### **3. Treasurer Report**

Cindi presented the current balance sheet and an updated budget to actual spreadsheet. She reported the PTSA filed taxes and sent out 1099s. She reported that we are still receiving occasionally checks or employer matches from the back to school ask. She discussed changes to the arts grant for middle school.

Dana had a question about funding for the March 10 disaster dinner being organized by the Safety and Resilience Committee. Her committee has obtained a small grant from Sunnyside Neighborhood Association. She wanted to ensure that those fundraising efforts would be earmarked for emergency preparedness. Cindi agreed that would be the case.

#### **4. Go Fund**

Neeley raised question about what used to be called the “buydown” for Marine Biology trips whereby an individual student could raise funds to lower the cost of trips to his or her family. A discussion ensued about how there no longer is a buydown and that PTSA may need to offer additional explanation to the SES community of how fundraising for the Go Fund works. The Board discussed the need to publicize the success Go Fund fundraising efforts, particularly within the middle school.

#### **5. Communications**

Dan reported that he and Beth have been working on Messenger publication guidelines which they will present to the Board next meeting.

Heidi related a request from Kristy in the office that publications directed to the broader public, i.e., outside the SES community, be run by Kristy to avoid error or miscommunications.

#### **6. Fundraising**

Matthew reported that the Read-A-Thon is underway. Oregon’s Poet Laureate will speak at SES. Matthew will set up a system for online payment of Read-A-Thon pledges.

Matthew reported that the Hawthorne Hophouse fundraising went well and that Hoda’s restaurant is set to do a fundraiser on Feb. 21. Matthew is planning more restaurant nights before end year.

The Taste to Sunnyside fundraiser will occur on February 25. Matthew hopes it will bring in about \$15K. There will be raffles for vacation homes. He current has a list of 10 party boards or learn-to-do boards. He is working on additional sponsorships. He needs entries for the dessert contest. Entries consist of 20-serving homemade desserts. Tickets for the event will go on sale in the mornings at school. Matthew needs volunteers to help set up the event beginning at 4 p.m. Jason Lee K-8, a school in NE Portland will piggy back on some of our Taste of Sunnyside fundraising efforts to assist them in creating a community garden.

#### **7. Parent Education**

Mike has a parent education program planned for Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m.: “Parenting in the Digital Age”. About 20 people have RSVP’d for this event. Childcare will be provided.

#### **8. Safety and Resilience Committee**

Dana reported that the disaster dinner coming together. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 10 from 3-6 p.m. The event will feature a free information fair with tables for various groups from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Dana will put out information on tickets soon. Tickets for dinner at 4:30 will be \$5-\$15 sliding scale. The emergency dinner will be cooked outside and the main course will be coconut curry lentils. Participants will be asked to bring their own spoons and bowls. There will be a raffle and games for kids. Raffle tickets will more than cover the cost of renting space. There will be speakers on neighborhood organizing. The Board agreed to permit use of the PTSA canopies for the event.

Dana gave also gave a short report on the committee's ongoing work with PPS, Walsh Construction and other regarding seismic issues surrounding the SES building. She has meeting scheduled to discuss a possible project where SES could be a training ground for seismic risk-mitigation. There are issues surrounding the scope of mitigation, the cost of the project and insurance coverage that need to be addressed.

## **9. Other business / Announcements**

Good smells are wafting from the community kitchen, which is receiving heavy use. Users are keeping the kitchen clean and utilizing the calendar system. There may be a need for some fundraising or donations in support of the community kitchen for ingredients, food items, and small equipment.

The SES cistern project continues to move forward. A pad and box for plumbing need to be installed. There is a need for communication about the project and solicitation of volunteers.

The SES Run/Walk fundraiser is being planned for April 16.

The PTSA website now has a link to Amazon.com that results in a percentage donation for purchases made on Amazon.com.

There was a discussion of the need to say thanks to Dian and Ginny for speaking at PTSA general meetings. Someone (Elizabeth?) volunteered to make shortbread.

Michael described the refugee unit of the middle school curriculum, which includes a visit to a refugee preschool and the film, *War Dances*. The Board engaged in a discussion about the possibility of parent educational programming relating to refugees and fundraising possibilities for a refugee family in Portland recently arrived from Congo. Michael also described the middle school ancient cultures storyline.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:15 p.m.