

PTSA General Meeting minutes September 26, 2013

Elizabeth welcomed the group and began the meeting at 6:40pm. She started with introducing Beth Azar, communications coordinator, who explained the different ways that parents can receive information about the goings on at school and with PTSA events.

Then Steph and Vinnie were introduced. Vinnie spoke about the sustainability program. Some examples he gave were: the lunchtime recycling program, city composting program, SES being one of the first schools to do this, averaging 40 lbs of food waste per day. In addition, the homeless sack lunches (making 4590 sack lunches last year), update school's green schools certifications, 2 years ago the program won a national award for education in sustainability for school children. Project second wind to generate food donations for the food bank post holidays. Volunteer nights at the Oregon food bank, hunger banquet to promote homelessness awareness for Oregon, the US and the world. Along with many other great contributions to our school curriculum. Steph introduced herself and gave an overview of her role on the sustainability team. In addition to tending to all the grounds year round, she also works with all the K-5 grade students each week (14-15 classes), one small group from each class each week. Coordinates her lessons with the current story lines, meaningful work yet helping with maintenance of the garden, helping the students feel ownership of their school. After that, Steph invited everyone to head out to the garden for a class demonstration.

Elizabeth introduced what the PTSA does and what the budget (that parents pay for) affords our children. She made a plug for the harvest faire coordinator position.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous General Meeting, Heidi McNamee seconded it. A voice vote was conducted and the motion carried.

A motion to approve the Standing Rules was made by Matthew Latterell and Justine Light seconded, the voice vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Ryan Manner spoke to the group about the Foundation and explained the differences between The Foundation and PTSA, as well as inform the group of the need to build on The Foundation this year. He mentioned the upcoming the raffles, and the after school activity programs to start in January. A question about having an auction and some discussion was in progress.

Cindi Carrell gave her treasurer's report and handed out the budget to actual for last year and explained where the money goes in our projected expenses. It was stated that we were audited this year.

Elizabeth mentioned MaOxford Lerotholi as membership chair so as to direct parents to obtain memberships and Matthew Latterell for Chinook book.

Principal Amy introduced Zalika Gardner, our School Improvement Specialist for this school year. Zalika introduced herself further to the group. She then spoke on Equity and Courageous Conversations, introducing some of the concepts of this movement in

equity and spoke about some of the goals: that all kids' stories are heard and all kids are valued in our community. She hopes to have several CC groups branch out from the original core group to create a web effect, hopefully creating greater change down the road. Questions were asked and answered generating a constructive conversation. There is a possibility of starting a new group this year to include more interested parents. Amy encouraged parents to send her an email to let her know of their interest in committing to such a group.

meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.
Minutes taken by secretary, Justine Light