

Albert Einstein Elementary
PTSA Board Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2009

Attendance: (sign-in sheet attached to Secretary's copy of minutes)

Meeting called to order by Michelle Sullivan at 9:17 am.

Minutes from the September 10, 2009 Board Meeting were approved as written.

Principal's Report:

- Thanked PTSA for the successful 10/6 General Meeting with Dr Kimball.
- Jack mentioned ongoing Spanish/world language immersion discussion/committee work; new Social Studies' materials; & critters arriving for science projects.
- Only school in district piloting new Math DIBELS program in K thru 3rd grade.
- New monthly awards programs: (1) Life Skills Awards every month recorded in students' "passports" & (2) Otter POP (Principal's Outstanding Performance) Award. Kitty asked for information (Recipients? Focus? Criteria?) to put in newsletter. Also requested that awards be posted on the Einstein website so parents can work with children on featured monthly life skill at home.

Teacher's Report:

- Amy thanked PTSA for General meeting. Teachers were impressed with energy level & inclusion of people in PTSA.
- Student Council: Candidates apply & run with elections in November. Children vote with teacher help. Council named in January. Jack requested that the Council have clearly defined purpose & that involved children have support of class. Responsibilities will include: student ambassadors at meetings, help with morning announcements, pledge, help with coin drive & other staff needs. Minimal class time used. Teachers working on this are: Ms Uphus, Mr Dahlgren & Ms Benzel.
- McDonald's Night Fundraiser: Thursday, November 5th from 5-7 pm at the Redmond McDonalds. 20% of proceeds will go to the school. PTSA will hold funds. Open to the public.

Treasurer's Report:

- (See attached 10/6/09 Report) Kari is working on putting corporate matching information online. Kitty will put information in Friday packet as well.

New Business:

Deva mentioned that the choir requested using leftover crewneck Otterwear sweatshirts for performances.

MOTION #1: Melanie motioned to give leftover 53 sweatshirts to choir for performances. Deva seconded. All in favor.

Outreach Chair:

- Mary Locke & Candida Crane are representing staff group brainstorming on outreach ideas to welcome & celebrate diversity at school. Will discuss at 10/15 staff meeting & will communicate a timeline & when parents can get involved. Contacting other schools/PTSA's to gather ideas.
- Deva mentioned ideas on PTO website. Will share ideas she has with staff committee.
- Mentioned a possible classroom component with results displayed at an evening celebration night in April. (If early in April, could be featured in yearbook.)
- Michelle suggested new appointed board position: **Outreach Chair** to work alongside staff outreach efforts
 - Jack had 2 successful volunteers in past who helped with written translations & phone calls. We have approx. 100 Spanish speaking families at school so helping children with academics is useful as well.
 - Doesn't have to be a current PTSA member.
 - Personal invitation would work best. Jack has someone in mind. Two people would make job less overwhelming.

MOTION #2: Donna motioned to add the new appointed position of Outreach Chair to the board. Amy seconded. All in favor.

- Discussion about communicating & working with people on myeinstein.org blog who want to help the school. Donna will act as unofficial liaison to move volunteer efforts in unified productive directions.
 - Discussion about re-introducing Drama as afterschool program.

Council Update:

- **PTSA & the Law:** training offered once a year that is very important so we have "legally responsible" board. Offered October 13, 20, 22, 24. Michelle asked that we choose one & let her know so she can register. October 22nd is in the evening at Redmond Town Center so a carpool can leave from Einstein for those interested.
- **Scholarship Basket 11/5:** Meggan Eaton is putting together our contribution basket of organic household products to benefit 22 scholarships for LWSD seniors going to college. 11/6 thru 12/3 baskets will be available at LWSD resource center for bidding in silent auction.
- **Bond & Levy:** Informational meetings posted on LWSD website regarding Levy issue (on ballots in February 2010). Our levy to fund LWSD is about to expire so we need to solicit support for its renewal. Every 4 years must ask for money for: (1) Maintenance & Operation (2) Capital projects & technology and (3) Bond modernization. Need parent

input on what to ask for to receive largest monetary support possible. Strategy is to call on people who have helped in the past.

- **Reflections:** Mikala Schmidt will be the Chair working with Deva. Submissions due 11/6.

PTSA General Meeting 10/6:

- Welcome poster featuring “Welcome” written in languages spoken at Einstein is still in need of a few languages and will then be laminated for posting at various events.
- Teachers & PTSA reps gave great feedback on the meeting.
- Went over Brainstorming Sheets from the meeting:
 - Sumi will create flyer about clubs for Friday packets even though clubs are run by the school (not PTSA) during school hours & are not pay-to-participate.
 - Capital improvement interest on blog. Donna will contact Michael. Typically such a project includes a master plan with a 3-year goal. Playground enhancement was one suggestion.
 - Beautification: school-wide event. Spring Clean-up Day was discussed (possibly Fall too in the future). Donations from Molbaks, Classic Nursery, etc if notified well in advance. Girl/Boy Scouts might help. Could be in conjunction with Pancake Breakfast (with donations from REI, Trader Joes, t-shirt company, etc). Advertise for a Beautification Chair.

Committee Reports:

Volunteers:

- Still in need of art docent aids. One class has no room parent but will combine with another class. Still in need of Classic Book Chair or to have it run by grade. All volunteers have been contacted.

Membership:

- No hard numbers but approximately 250 members. Otter pop membership winners out next week.

Family Events:

- 11/17 Skate Night; 1/14 Math Night; 2/19 Bingo Night

Communications:

- Newsletter will move to 3rd Friday of every month—too difficult to get board meeting information included otherwise. Signing into Office Live gives board members greater access to documents on site.
- Decided that we post most recent General Membership Meeting & most recently approved Board Meeting minutes on the website.

Fundraising:

- Pass the Hat: 112 families participated. \$ 15,750 donated. \$ 18,155 with matching. Matching receipts come out in November.
- Sally Foster begins tomorrow (10/9). SF Packets will go home in Friday packet. Will “Gift-Wrap Jack” at the next assembly.

Meeting adjourned by Michelle at 11:42 am.

The above notes were submitted by Margie Segress, Secretary.