



## Briarwood Elementary PTA

Issaquah School District  
Local Unit 2.6.5

MINUTES  
General Meeting  
Monday, May 19, 2014  
Briarwood Library  
FINAL COPY

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**Call to Order:** President Karin Manning called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Attendance sheet attached. **Quorum present.**

**President's Report, Karin Manning:**

- Council Report- On June 5th there will be a training for President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Officers that will count toward next year's training requirement. Training will take place at the ISD Administration building.
- Site Council is looking for new parent representatives for next year. It is a two year commitment, with five 1 hour meetings each year.
- Chair positions- The VP's need to let Karin know which programs/events have confirmed chairs, and which positions still need to be filled.
- Standards of Excellence Award- At the PTA Convention our PTA received the Silver Award and we were just 1.5 points away from Gold. Thanks to Laila for all the work she put into compiling the necessary data.
- We are up 42 members in 2014, so we've been entered into a variety of WSPTA award raffles.

**Secretary's Report, Diane Oberg:**

- Minutes from the General Meeting on April 21, 2014 were presented and approved as written.
- Correspondence was read: Thank you notes were received from Volunteers for Issaquah Schools and Sarah Rahlfs.

**Treasurer's Report, Alison Larsson:**

- Current Account Balances: Checking: \$34,320.54 Savings: \$15,045.05
- July Financial Review: Tanya Platt, Laila Collins, Karin Manning, Karen Nelson, Louisa Pardo, and Erin Thacker volunteered.
- 2014-2015 Budget Presentation- Major changes from the 2013-2014 budget are as follows:
  - Jog-a-Thon: Budgeted income has been increased from \$27,000 to \$30,000. The higher goal reflects the increase in our student population. The budgeted expense has been decreased from \$2,000 to \$1,250. There will be fewer prizes this year; we want to promote doing good things for our school and community without the expectation of a prize.
  - Bear Path Bricks: Budgeted income has been reduced from \$1800 to \$500.
  - Grants: \$10,517.50 Teacher Stipends: \$7500 (\$400 added due to increased staff)
  - Art Docent: Budgeted expense has increased from \$2000 to \$3000. We have hired Beth Kuntz to do 1-2 art projects with each grade next year, and we may purchase an art curriculum that parent volunteers can use.
  - RAH and MAH have a budgeted expense of \$500 each.
  - Young Authors is a Zero Budget Item for now. This may become an 'every other year' activity.
  - Other PTA Support: Budgeted expense increased from \$200 to \$300 (ACT added)
  - Paypal fees: Budgeted expense increased from \$300 to \$500.
  - Printing and copying expense decreased from \$2000 to \$1000.

- State PTA Convention/Training: Budgeted expense has increased from \$300 to \$550.
- MOTION (by Laila Collins) I move that we approve the budget as presented.** Seconded by Tanya Platt; no further discussion; vote; **Motion passes.**

### **VP Reports:**

- Fundraising, Tracy Kennedy
    - Brick engraving- We currently have 6 orders, but need 14 by the last day of school for the bricks to get engraved over the summer. If not enough orders are received, parents can opt for a refund or keep their order until we have enough to have the engravers come out. It was suggested that a carnival activity be held on the Bear Path to bring attention to the bricks.
  - Communications, Maria Bassett
    - Website will be ready to go on August 1st to coincide with online district registration.
  - Volunteer Recognition, Renee Emerson
    - Lynda Maybury for McTeacher night; Renee Emerson for many years of service; Katie Breuel for Book Fairs; Nicole Morgan for Staff Appreciation; Tanya Platt for Book Swaps; Renee Emerson for Book Fairs; Darla Vaughan for Yearbook; Sarah Dutton for newsletter and help with Communications. Drawing Winners: Tanya Platt, Maria Bassett, Mindy Johnson, Nicole Morgan, and Lynda Maybury
  - Programs, Erin Thacker and Hollie Archibald
    - Field Day is Friday from 1:30-2:30. We still need volunteers to sign up on the website. We only have 18, but need 40. If there are not enough volunteers, we will cut stations.
    - There will be one more popcorn Friday this year, but no popcorn at the Carnival.
    - Scholastic Book Fair was a success. After tax sales were \$5814.13, just over double last year's total. We get 10% (\$581.43) in Scholastic dollars. We used Scholastic dollars to purchase 21 library bound books for Ms. Soel, and donated proceeds from 'All for Books' to Ms. Mayo and Ms. Patty. Katie Breuel and and Hollie Archibald will be chairing the Book Fair next fall.
- Family Events, Louisa Pardo
- Carnival- Student volunteers from Maywood and Liberty and more parent volunteers are still needed. Julie Hicks will chair the Dessert Walk.

### **Staff Report, Kelsey Smith:**

- Thank you for the creative and fun celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Teachers' Stipend Reimbursement receipts are due to Alison by the end of May.
- Is it possible to give a stipend to the nurse? The PTA is concerned about where to draw the line; if things are needed, a grant request can be written.

### **Principal's Report, Drew Terry**

- Staffing update:
  - Ruth Cerna will now be the lead literacy support person for ISD. Her position is open for transfer; the new specialist will work at Briarwood and Creekside.
  - A 5th second grade teacher will be hired. There will be a team teaching model again next year, but the teaching team hasn't been decided yet. First grade parents can give input as to whether or not they would like their child to be part of this combined class.
  - Ms. Fry is retiring, and a new counselor will be hired.
  - Donna Cleary is transferring to Skyline as their Attendance Secretary. Barbara Potts is taking a leave of absence. Both will be here in August to help train the new office staff.

- District level- The Skyline principal is now the ISD Personnel Director. The assistant principal at Liberty is the new Skyline principal. The Issaquah Middle School principal is now Director of School Improvement, and the assistant principal is also leaving. The ISD Special Ed Director retired and was replaced with someone from within the district.
- Some classrooms will be moving to create a K-1 wing and 1-2 wing downstairs. Reading buddies may be located downstairs if there is an empty room. Bear Club will move upstairs.
- The alcove above the library will be converted into a comfortable reading area with bookcases.
- No Child Left Behind: The state applied for a waiver that was declined because teacher and principal evaluations are not directly tied to standardized test scores. As a result, we now need 100% of students to meet standard on this year's reading and math MSP tests in order to avoid sanctions. If we do not achieve the 100%, students will be given the option to be bussed to a 'non-failing' school within the district. Additionally, the district will have to pay for outside tutoring for students who qualify. A informational letter will be sent out to parents. Only schools who receive Title I funding are subject to these sanctions, and there are 6 schools in the ISD who are Title I (Briarwood included).
- This is the last year for the MSP. Next year students in grades 3,4,5 will be given the new Smarter Balanced assessments in Language Arts and Math. The Smarter Balanced assessments are aligned with the Common Core standards.
- June 3rd is the Volunteer Luncheon.
- On June 4th from 2-4pm there will be tours of the building for new students.
- Science Tech: 57 students applied, 5 Briarwood students made it in.

### **New Business:**

Stephanie Mayo, IEA

- Initiative 1351 is an initiative that will lower class sizes. The goal is to continually bring education to the forefront and make it a priority for the legislature. There is currently no funding for this initiative. Stephanie left petitions if anyone is interested in gathering signatures.

Grant Recipient Reports

- Bear tickets have reduced behavior problems, and the students are excited about the program.
- Go Green Team- perennial bulbs and pumpkin seeds will be planted at their last meeting.
- Kimochi's Tool Kit- Students love the program. Ms. Weinberg is not returning to Briarwood next year, but she has passed on the materials and training information to Ms. Kaufman and the new OT so that they are prepared to use the program next year.
- Kindergarten is in the process of figuring out the Leveled Reader titles they want to order. On June 6th the PTA and ISF are invited to the classrooms to see the program in action.

Thermometer Grant

- Swedish denied Ms. Shinn's thermometer request, but said that she can reapply in August. They encourage her to look elsewhere for funding. The district will not pay for a new thermometer, and the health room budget isn't large enough to purchase the high quality one that the nurse is requesting. Because of a student with febrile seizures we need to have an accurate thermometer. Accurate temperature readings are also important for determining if sick children can remain at school or need to be sent home. There is concern among the PTA membership that purchasing a thermometer doesn't reflect our Mission and Goals, and that it may be setting a precedent for future grants.

**MOTION (by Tracy Kennedy) I make a motion that we pass the grant for the health room thermometer in the amount of \$445.49. Seconded by Tanya Platt; discussion; vote; Motion passes.**

Membership

- One of our PTA's goals is to increase membership. Some ideas are to consider cultural differences in order to reach out to non-native speakers; i.e. specifically name teachers/ classrooms that benefit from PTA, rather than the Briarwood community as a whole. Additional ways to increase awareness of how PTA benefits all students is to specifically list all that the PTA does (pie chart showing where our money goes) and have teachers specifically thank the PTA in their newsletters for the activities/programs that are PTA funded.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, June 9, 2014. General Meeting, offsite.

Submitted by:

Diane Oberg  
Secretary, Briarwood Elementary PTA 2.6.5