
Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Attendance sheet is attached. **Quorum present.**

Treasurer's Report, Alison Larsson:

- Deposited a check from Orange Ruler in the amount of \$11, 620.42
- Account Balances: Checking \$39,990.01 - Savings \$15,046.81

Guest Speaker, Shelly Russell:

- Representative from the Issaquah PTSA Council – Co-Vice President of High Schools
- Making sure schools know the council exists – and that they can come to council for guidance and help.

Grants:

- **Science Fair Assembly:** Jennifer Mitchell, Dean of Students, presented a grant to help cover the cost of a Science Fair assembly with Rick Hartman called “Gears of Invention.” However, it was realized that money had already been budgeted for this assembly under the Science Fair assembly line item. Grant request was withdrawn.
- **Young Authors:** Jennifer Mitchell also presented a grant request for a Young Author visit to Briarwood by author and songwriter Eric Ode. The total amount of \$1045 includes an evening visit open to families.
MOTION (by Laila Collins) I move that we approve the Young Authors grant as presented for \$1045. Seconded by Rebekkah Liebowitz; no discussion; vote; **Motion passes.**
- **Visualizing and Verbalizing:** Briarwood Speech Pathologist Danielle Nelson presented a grant request for the “Visualizing and Verbalizing” program. It will be used mainly with students eligible for Special Education – but will also be available for students in the general population. The total grant amount of \$1116.78 includes the “Visualizing and Verbalizing” teacher kit, workbooks and other materials.
MOTION (by Paul Dutton) I move to approve the speech pathology grant in the amount of \$1116.78. Seconded by Laila Collins; no discussion; vote; **Motion passes.**
- **Mercer Slough Field Trip:** Patty McElligott and Laycie Rader presented a grant on behalf of the 4th grade team to help cover the cost of a student field trip to the Mercer Slough as part of their science unit on Ecosystems. Overload classes this year mean an extra bus is needed. The grant for \$816 will pay the Mercer Slough educational fee. A fee will be collected from students to cover the transportation cost.
MOTION (by Laila Collins) I move to approve the 4th grade field trip grant for \$816. Seconded by Erin Thacker; no discussion; vote; **Motion passes.**

Principal's Report, Drew Terry:

- Finished staffing with two new Educational Assistants hired for overload in 3rd and 4th grades.
- Asked for feedback on first on-line conference sign-ups. Suggestions to change the start time. Parents now have a cut-off of December 1 to sign-up online – after that they will have to contact teacher directly.
- Reports cards will be available on-line only on Family Access after 5pm on November 26.

- Have set a building wide goal for writing. The majority of professional development will focus on writing. Writing instructor Matt Glover will be coming in. Teachers will get to observe him in the classroom.
- Some classes are now celebrating their writing at the end of a unit. In 4th grade, students read each other's pieces and left comments for one and other.
- ASAP (After School Assistance Program) is almost ready to kick off. A \$15,000 grant from the Issaquah Schools Foundation pays for teachers to stay after school to help students. There is now enough staff to serve students in reading, math and writing. They are now in the process of selecting students and expect to have 9 to 10 groups with five kids in each. Invitations will be passed out during parent-teacher conferences for a December 11 start date.
- There is now a new protocol for lockdown training called "Run, Hide, Fight." Teachers have been trained. EAs will have training during conference days. Mr. Terry previewed a power point that will be shown to students explaining what to do. The basic message is: in an emergency, listen to your teacher.

President's Report, Karin Manning:

- Laila Collins gave the Council update and reminded parents to sign up for district E-news to receive bulletins about weather and other emergencies. The school district is installing a secondary power system at the Administration building following recent outages.
- Graduation requirements are changing for Liberty High School students starting with this year's 8th graders. 31 credits are needed to graduate.
- The teachers' union president spoke at the council meeting with an update on evaluating the new assessment process for teachers and support staff.
- Karin Manning passed out a flier with information on a parent education night on December 1st focusing on homework.

Secretary's Report, Karen Nelson/Karin Manning:

- Minutes from the General Meeting on October 20, 2014 were presented and approved as written.
- Correspondence: a thank you note (and cookies) from the Briarwood nurse Jerri Shinn and Liz Ellis for the thermometer purchased with a PTA grant.

VP Reports:

- **VP of Fundraising, Rebekkah Liebowitz:**
Cookie dough sales (originally scheduled for the fall) are now scheduled for the spring – March 16-31st. Delivery will likely happen after spring break.
- **VP of Communications, Maria Bassett:**
The latest newsletter is out – congratulated for her work. The newsletter will be submitted for a PTA award.
- **VP of Programs, Hollie Archibald/Erin Thacker:**
Book Fair: The book fair is ready to go – November 18 through the evening of November 21st. Have three cash registers this year – could still use more volunteers. Teachers will do a walk through to make classroom wish lists.
Pizza Bingo: Sharon Kellerman and Michelle Peebles gave an update on Pizza Bingo scheduled for November 21. Everything is ready to go with lots of prizes – donations from more than 30 local businesses. There was discussion on how best to award the prizes. It was decided later to hold a raffle with some of the bigger donations.
Caring Through Sharing: Kristen Slocum gave an update on the Caring Through Sharing program – gift donations are being accepted until December 5th. There was some discussion on

whether the tree is appropriate to collect donations. It has traditionally been considered a “giving” tree.

Book Swap: The next book swap is scheduled for December 5th

Variety Show: Laila Collins gave an update on the variety show scheduled for December 12. Students are already signing up. The theme this year is “Briarwood’s Got Talent.” They are still in need of volunteer to run the sound system.

- **Membership Update:** Laila Collins gave an update on membership which is now a 349 – 101 short of goal. Student directories should be out in early December. Briarwood tote bags have been distributed.

Staff Report, Kim Hall:

- Ms. Hall gave an update on a flag football camp being held in PE classes this week. Coach and parent Rodney Brown is donating his time to run the camp.

New Business:

- Citing WSPTA Uniform Bylaws Article 5, Section 5, President Karin Manning said members needed to elect a Nominating Committee. The job of the nominating committee is to check in with current board members to see if they would like to return next year – and to help find new candidates for board positions.

MOTION (by Laila Collins) I make a motion to nominate Erin Thacker, Diane Oberg, Hollie Archibald for the Nominating Committee with Alison Larsson and Louisa Pardo as alternates. Seconded by Rebekkah Leibowitz; no further discussion; vote; **Motion passes.**

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 26, 2015 6:30pm in the Briarwood Library

Submitted by:

Karen Nelson
Board Member-at-Large, Briarwood Elementary PTA 2.6.5