

Briarwood Elementary PTA

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

Guest Speaker, Caroline Brown, Membership:

- Caroline is on the Board of Directors for membership with the Issaquah PTSA Council and is also the State Representative for Membership. Issaquah School District is in Region 2, and our region makes up 50,000 of the 150,000 WA State PTA members. We have a vibrant PTA community, but there are some ideas to increase membership:
 - Personally invite someone to join or come to a meeting.
 - Help parents to understand how PTA connects them to the school community.
 - Help parents to understand how PTA works as a non-profit to help all children.
 - Help parents to understand that membership doesn't necessarily require time spent volunteering
 - PTA members receive [discounts at area businesses](#) (i.e. FedEx for copies, Great Wolf Lodge- up to 30% off) A list of participating businesses can be found on the WSPTA website

Guest Speaker, Paul Dutton, Legislative and Advocacy Rep:

- PTA, as a statewide organization, supports a platform every year and lobbies our elected representatives. The WSPTA is soliciting feedback from the community about which issues are important to them in the 2014-2015 school year. Community members are encouraged to take the [survey](#) to make their opinions heard. The survey closes on Sept. 30, and the results will assist the voting delegates in setting a legislative platform during the Legislative Assembly in Vancouver on Oct 24-25.

President's Report, Karin Manning:

- Welcome to our new parents
- Introduction of [Board Members](#)
- Our October meeting has been changed from a Board Meeting to a General Meeting. We will be approving the 2014-2015 Budget at that meeting.
- 2014-2015 [Event Calendar](#)
- Briarwood PTA [Mission and Goals](#) have been approved by the Board, and were submitted to the General Membership for review.

MOTION (by Laila Collins) I move that we approve the Mission and Goals as presented.

Seconded by Rebekkah Liebowitz; no further discussion; vote; **Motion passes**

- Briarwood PTA [Standing Rules](#) have been approved by the Board, and were submitted to the General Membership for review.

MOTION (by Paul Dutton) I move that we approve the Standing Rules as presented.

Seconded by Karen Nelson; no further discussion; vote; **Motion passes**

Secretary's Report, Diane Oberg:

- Minutes from the General Meeting on June 9, 2014 were presented and approved as written.

- Correspondence was shared: Thank you notes from Mary Fry and Issaquah Schools Foundation

Treasurer's Report, Alison Larsson:

- Account Balances: Checking \$28,091.82 Savings \$15,046.30
- 2014-2015 Budget Approval will take place at the October General Meeting.
- The Financial Review was conducted on July 16th by Louisa Pardo, Laila Collins, and Erin Thacker. There were no issues of concern.

VP Reports:

- VP of Fundraising, Rebekkah Liebowitz:
 - The Orange Ruler fundraiser is currently underway. It is our main fundraiser for the year, and it pays for all of our programs throughout the year. The top 3 classes win a Jamba Juice Party, and the top 10 classes participate in pig races. All classes that meet goal get a Kona Ice party. Students can win participation prizes through a drawing. Our goal is to raise \$40,000. The culminating fun run will occur on Sept. 24th.
 - Brown Bear Car Wash coupons are being sold on our website: 1 for \$7, 3 for \$18, or 5 for \$25
- VP of Communications, Maria Bassett:
 - Last year we found that our online newsletter was only reaching 30% of families. This year we decided to do fewer newsletters (every other month) and have them in paper form and on the website.
 - E-Blasts will be sent out weekly, and will focus on the events occurring during the current week only.
 - Chair Person's Tool Kit can be found on the website. A few documents have been added, such as timelines for planning and promoting events, a new reimbursement form, guidelines for using social media, and guidelines for logo usage.
 - [Communications Policy](#) has been approved by the Board, and is on the website for review
- Co-VP's of Programs, Hollie Archibald and Erin Thacker:
 - The printed Student Directory has two new co chairs, and will be distributed before Thanksgiving.
 - The online directory is up and running on the website.
 - October 3rd will be the first Popcorn Friday. A schedule of future Popcorn Fridays will be issued soon.
 - Scholastic Book Fair will take place from Nov 17-21. The theme is 'Sir Read-A-Lot'.
 - Read At Home and Math At Home will both occur every month from October - May.
 - Today is last day to order Spirit Wear. There will be one more order period in October, for delivery before winter break.
- VP of Family Activities/Nights, Laila Collins:
 - Thank you to Michelle Peebles for chairing Tea and Tissues, and Tanya Platt and Sheryl Petersen for chairing the Back To School BBQ.
 - Pumpkin Carving Night will be on October 24. There will also be a cookie/cupcake decorating contest. The entries will be the refreshments, so we're encouraging a lot of participation.
 - We really need a chair for Missoula Children's Theatre in order for it to happen this year.
 - Danielle Hunter volunteered to chair Multicultural Night.
 - Apple Cup Pizza Bingo will be on Nov. 21st at 6pm.
- VP of Volunteers, Louisa Pardo:
 - There are lot of openings still available on the website. Job descriptions are included.
 - The [Volunteer Code of Conduct](#) is a document on our website that outlines expectations for volunteer behavior. Prior to volunteering, volunteers need to agree to the terms of the Code of Conduct. All volunteers also need to complete a background check every year.

Staff Report, Kelsey Smith:

- The use of the school building or rooms needs to be cleared with Jennifer Mitchell. Monday and Tuesday there are overload music classes on the stage. On Thursday there are overload PE classes in the Commons, and there is Student Recognition on the stage on selected Fridays.
- We won't have a final number for our grant budget until the October meeting because we're waiting for the results of our Orange Ruler fundraiser. Teachers shouldn't submit grant requests until the November meeting.
- Thank you to the PTA for funding Science to Go. Teachers and students are excited about the program.

Principal's Report, Drew Terry:

- The school continues to grow. One class was added this year, and possibly 2 more will be added next year. That will put us at building capacity next year. Including preschool, we have more than 600 students.
- The Back to School BBQ event was a great success; Over 90% of Briarwood families attended. The 'Meet the Teacher' time was changed to one 60 minute block, rather than two 30 minute blocks. There was positive feedback about the change from both teachers and parents. The picture line was very long at times, so we're looking at possible changes for next year.
- We have 8 classrooms in overload, so we get additional para-educator support.
- Adequate Yearly Progress- According to the No Child Left Behind legislation, we're a 'failing' school because not every single student is meeting standard in every area. However, over the last 3 years our school has made a lot of growth in all areas and in all student populations. As a sanction for not making Adequate Yearly Progress, 20% of our Title 1 budget has been set aside for kids who chose to change schools. Four students left Briarwood for Maple Hills (2 of those left for scheduling convenience).

New Business: none

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Submitted by:

Diane Oberg
Secretary, Briarwood Elementary PTA 2.6.5