

- MINUTES-General Meeting
- Monday, September 21, 2015
- Briarwood Library
- FINAL

Call to Order: President Erin Thacker called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Attendance sheet is attached. Quorum present.

President's Report, Erin Thacker:

- Welcome to our new parents
- Introduction of Board Members
- 2015-2016 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 Michelle Splaver; 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 Karen Nelson) I move that we approve the Standing Rules as presented. Seconded by Nicole Morgan; no further discussion; vote; **Motion passes**
- Rebekkah Leibowitz explained ISF and fundraising campaigns. Need volunteers for upcoming honk-n-wave, dates TBD
- Council Update
 - Council is held the 2nd Thursday of every month at the admin building, anyone welcome
 - Upcoming Event "Experience Fitness Project" fitness-oriented events for children and young adults with developmental and physical disabilities. Sunday September 27th at Issaquah High School
 - We need an advocacy representative. Current legislative issues are the upcoming bond, charter schools law, and McCleary funding issues

Secretary's Report, Alison Larsson:

- Minutes from the General Meeting on May 18, 2015 were presented and approved as written.
- Correspondence shared: Thank you note from Sara VanderWel for last year's grant for Spanish Club books, thank you note from Kim Hall for staff appreciation lunch.

Treasurer's Report, Seung Park:

- Account Balances: Checking \$29,736.83 Savings \$15,049.35
- Budget updates: Escrip line item removed due to small amount expected. Escrip income will be deposited to Misc. Donations line item
MOTION (by Laila Collins) I move that we approve the budget as presented. Seconded by Rebekkah Leibowitz; no further discussion; vote; **Motion passes**

VP Reports:

- Communications, Michelle Splaver
 - Goals are to use different media to communicate with families (website, eblast, Facebook page, newsletter)
 - Objectives are to communicate programs, activities, volunteer needs, support, and be a resource for advocacy
 - Social media is in compliance with National PTA guidelines. Currently there are no students 'opted-out' from photos being posted online. No names are posted online, first name and last initial on printed materials.
 - PTA logo is a brand, to be used on all communications
- Programs, Nicole Morgan and Tira Will

- Scholastic Book Fair will be November 17-20. Volunteers are needed, especially with setup on Tuesday, November 17 at 11:30am.
- RAH/MAH will both start on October 1. MAH tables will be out on the first popcorn Friday of the month. RAH tables will be out on the second popcorn Friday of the month. We need another traveling mascot for MAH. When logging in minutes, you must select the student's teacher from the drop down menu first.
- Camp Colman chairs are Greta and Greg LaMont.
- Directory – We are looking for advertisers. Physical addresses will be replaced with email addresses. Both physical and email addresses cannot be included due to space constraints. Physical addresses will still be available in the online directory
- Staff Appreciation Lunch is November 17th – Thanksgiving Turkey Fry.
- Art, Michelle Peebles
 - We still need 5th grade volunteers to teach art
 - New curriculum this year featuring 6 new artists
- Fundraising, Rebekkah Leibowitz
 - Bear Path Bricks: Need 2 more orders to do an engraving
 - Brown Bear Car Wash tickets are available for purchase on the website
 - Orange Ruler, Nicole Morgan:
 - Goal is \$45,000. Currently we are at 51% of the goal, similar to last year at this time.
 - Kelsey Smith will send an email to staff stressing importance of this fundraiser
- Family Activities, Danielle Hunter
 - Pumpkin Carving Night is October 23rd, chair is Dionne Irvin. Cookie contest will be held, and cider or cocoa refreshment will be added
 - We need a chair for Pizza Bingo on November 20th. We already have prizes. Book Fair will be held the same night. Name of this event will be changed to 'Apple Cup Pizza Bingo'
- Volunteers, Kristin Slocum
 - We need more general volunteers, looking for cultural diversity and new families to volunteer
 - Vision and Hearing Screening on October 1st: Need 40 volunteers, there will be 2 shifts, morning and afternoon, 3 hours each
 - VIP program changes coming soon
- Membership, Erin Thacker
 - New Membership committee has been established: Becca Heeter, Greta Lamont and Erin Thacker
 - Current membership is 187 family memberships, 312 members.
 - Goal is 500 members
 - Membership information is uploaded to the state PTA site every 2 weeks
- Volunteer Code of Conduct, Laila Collins
 - Code of Conduct is available on the website
 - Follow teacher/school rules. We are guests of the school.
 - Plan is to add the Code of Conduct as an agreement checkbox on the website as part of the volunteer sign-up process

Staff Report, Kelsey Smith:

- Teachers want to have McTeacher night, they will vote on the preferred day of the week.
- Teachers use and appreciate the Scholastic Newsletters
- Any parent communication can be sent to Kelsey 3-4 days in advance. Not able to handle last minute distribution of information. Provide her with a final draft so that Information can be copied/pasted into parent communication without editing.

Principal's Report, Drew Terry:

- Welcome to new parents
- Introduced Dean of Students Laycie Rader, filling in for Jennifer Mitchell who is on maternity leave

- District News: District has grown by 1000 students in 2 years. A \$500 million bond has been moved forward for 4 new schools (2 elementary, 1 middle, 1 high school). \$97 million of this bond is for land purchase
- District is discussing homework and grading systems to determine the purpose of homework, and providing better social and emotional support. As a result, Briarwood's Student of the Month would have new criteria based on character traits
- New preschool program this year for low-income (ECEAP): 3 new staff, 18 new students
- 675 enrolled students at Briarwood (includes preschool). There is one new portable. School is full.
- Safety week is September 28th thru October 2nd. All four drills will be conducted that week. There will be more safety education including Search and Rescue simulation in the spring
- Comfort kits and emergency supplies were discussed. Comfort kits have been phased out because of lack of space and practicality (kits would not be available to children outside the classroom in an emergency). There are some emergency supplies in the PE storage room.
- Meet the Teacher night had 93% of the students represented; Curriculum Night had 70% represented
- Co-curricular activities starting: Spanish Club (starting with 3rd grade), Running Club, Go Green, Student Council
- There is no longer a classroom available for recording the Briarwood News, It is currently being communicated over the PA system. Need volunteer help to get the video recording up and running again, the Science Tech teachers can train volunteers to record on the stage
- There were some glitches in the online school volunteer signup, particularly with the process of selecting a specific school for volunteering. Many were not given this option and volunteer badges have been delayed.
- There has only been one response to the request for a bilingual parent liaison and we would like more. One problem is that the need has not been communicated to non-PTA members. It was suggested that teachers send out information to reach parents that are not PTA members.
- **New Business:** none
- **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

Submitted by:

Alison Larsson
Secretary, Briarwood Elementary PTA 2.6.5