



- MINUTES-General Meeting
- Monday, March 20, 2017
- Briarwood Library
- FINAL

Call to Order: President Erin Thacker called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. Attendance sheet is attached. Quorum present.

Golden Acorn Awards: The Golden Acorn Award is presented by PTA to volunteers in recognition of dedication and service to children and youth. This year we have 3 Golden Acorn recipients

- Hollie Archibald: Hollie is a former VP of Programs, has chaired the Scholastic Book fair for 4 years, and has been part of the “Popcorn Posse”. She also volunteers in the classroom, has been a longtime ISF supporter, volunteers with Liberty HS Boosters, and is a Youth Leader at her church and a Cub Scout Committee member.
- Erin Thacker: Erin has been a volunteer at Briarwood for 6 years, has served as VP of Programs, Art Docent Coordinator, Skating Party Chair, Spirit Sales chair, and as PTA President for the last 2 years.
- Alison Larsson: Alison has served 2 years as Treasurer and 2 years as Secretary. She manages the Science-to-Go Kits, the Box Tops Program, and volunteers in the classroom. Outside of PTA, she serves as Treasurer of her daughter’s Girl Scout Troop, council Treasurer at her church, and is also involved in Vacation Bible School and the Youth ministry at her church.

Outstanding Advocate Award: This award recognizes an individual for continued and dedicated service to all children, and a commitment to helping create policies relating to the health, welfare, safety and education of children and youth.

- Kristen Slocum: Kristen is an advocate for all children in our community. She has served as our Volunteers Outreach Chair and Advocacy Rep. She organized the summer kindergarten meet and greet and teaches art in the classrooms. She also attended Focus Day and the Legislative Assembly, and is a Girl Scout Leader.

Outstanding Educator Award: This award recognizes educators who go beyond the normal job expectations to enhance the learning environment. A donation is made in their name to the WSPTA to support scholarships for students pursuing post-secondary education.

- Kelsey Smith: Kelsey was nominated for her unique approach to classroom setup, making learning more productive and engaging through varied seating options for our youngest learners. She has served as PTA staff liaison for 4 years, in addition to coaching the Liberty HS cheerleaders. She often attends students’ extracurricular events and continues to take an interest in past students. Thank you Kelsey!
- Drew Terry: Drew was nominated for his outstanding leadership at Briarwood for the last 12 years. His accomplishments include establishing and securing funding for the ASAP program, and establishing the Cultural Connections meetings to bring our diverse community together. He attends every PTA meeting and PTA and school events, and knows every student’s name and most parents’ names too. He has been a mentor and “Papa Bear” for current and former students of Briarwood. Thank you Drew!

Grants (3): Current Grants balance is \$1300.

1. Camp Colman beads (Pam Lindner, Kris Pottsmith): This year’s 5th graders would get a necklace with beads. Each bead would represent challenges completed, random acts of kindness, etc. The cost for leather cord, discs, and beads is \$251.98 including shipping. Beads may last 5 years but cords and discs will need to be ordered every year. In the future this cost can be incorporated into the Camp Colman fees paid by parents so PTA is not funding it every year.

MOTION (by Nicole Morgan) I move that we approve the Camp Colman necklaces Grant in the amount of \$251.98. Seconded by Rebekkah Leibowitz; vote. **Motion Passes.**

2. Kindergarten Conference (Kelsey Smith, Tiffany Martinell): Kelsey and Tiffany would like to attend the “I Teach K” conference in Las Vegas again this summer. They are waiting for a response from ISF as to whether they can help with funding, if they cannot then they would like for PTA to fund their airfare. The airfare would not exceed \$550.

MOTION (by Michelle Splaver) I move that we approve the Kindergarten Conference grant not to exceed \$550. Seconded by Jasmine Brothers; vote. **Motion Passes.**

3. Kindergarten Chairs (Kelsey Smith): Kelsey has been using flexible seating in her classroom which has shown to improve students' work habits. She is asking for scoop chairs, a set of 6 for \$44.77. She has sought other sources of funding but was unable to get it approved unless it was available through Amazon Prime. These are not eligible for Prime but are free shipping.

MOTION (by Jasmine Brothers): I move that we approve the Kindergarten Chairs grant in the amount of \$44.77. Seconded by Megan Raak; vote. **Motion Passes.**

President's Report, Erin Thacker:

- Council Update:
 - WSPTA Convention is April 28-30 at the SeaTac Hilton
 - Community Values Survey results are in:
http://www.issaquahpta.org/final_communityvalues_presentation2017
 - 2 Legislative Events occurred on March 8:
 - SB 5023 (Senate version of the bill that would delay levy cliff and extend the bond) passed
 - Para-educator Bill passed – requires standards for para-educators, professional development, easier access to teacher certification
- Membership Update: 459 members of 520 member goal = 88% of goal
- Parent Education: "Hidden in Plain Sight" hosted by Influence the Choice, Tuesday March 28 at 6:30 at Liberty HS. Helps parents spot signs of at-risk behaviors using an interactive display of a teenager's bedroom. Learn about signs of substance abuse and adolescent development.

Secretary's Report, Alison Larsson:

- Minutes from the General Meeting on January 23, 2017 were presented and approved as written.
- Minutes from the Board Meeting on October 24, 2016 were presented to the board and approved as written
- Correspondence (4 items) Thank you note from Gibson Ek PTSA for our donation; Thank you note from Kim Hall for classified staff appreciation lunch; Thank you note from student Emrie Miller for arranging all the events; general Thank you note signed 'Briarwood Kids'
- Standards of Excellence Award submission was mailed in. We will get the results at Convention. Some of the ways we could have earned more points are:
 - Have more members attend convention (earned 1 out of 4 points)
 - Have more members go to PTA and the Law (earned 1 out of 4 points)
 - Have more members attend Focus Day (earned 1 out of 3 points)
 - Have more members attend Legislative Assembly (earned 1 out of 3 points)

Treasurer's Report, presented by Seung Park:

- Account Balances as of 3/20/17: Checking \$23324.29 Savings \$15053.85
- Budget Committee volunteers: Laila Collins, Erin Thacker, Nicole Morgan, Alison Larsson, Jasmine Brothers
- Mid-Year Financial Review was completed in January. The only issue found was a duplicate NSF check which Seung was able to correct in the system.

VP Reports:

- Communications, Michelle Splaver
 - Awards applied for: Outstanding Communication Strategy, Outstanding Website, Outstanding Newsletter. Results will be available at convention
 - Communications Survey received 90 responses.
 - The top 3 things members want to see on Facebook are: Spirit Day reminders and info, Events and Programs, and School News.
 - The top 3 communication methods are Briarwood Bear Blast, Bear Facts Newsletter, and the website.
 - One of the survey comments asked that a link be set up from the PTA website to the teachers' "Favorite Things" lists. Michelle has added this link to the website.
 - Kristen Slocum would like to set up a "Advocacy Corner" on the Facebook page
- Volunteers, Kristen Slocum:

- Volunteers are needed for Picture Day 3/23 & 3/24
- VIP for January is Seung Park. VIPs for February are Natalya Khan and Jasmine Brothers
- Laila Collins thanked all volunteers who helped with a successful Missoula play
- Programs, Nicole Morgan and Tira Will
 - Book Swap – Adrienne Baker will not be chairing next year. Mrs. Winter’s class won the pizza party
 - Movie Night 3/31 “Moana” – there will be snacks sold to fundraise for the All for Books program
 - Gift-a-Book (Tira Will) caught up on photos
 - Field Day will be June 9
 - Order Yearbooks by April 3, they will not be sold at carnival
- Fundraising, Jasmine Brothers
 - Cookie Dough brochures were sent home this week; order forms and money due March 27; items will be delivered on April 20. Volunteers needed.
 - McTeacher night is Friday March 24 at McDonalds on Sunset from 5-8pm. PTA earns 20% of all sales and 100% of all tips collected at the event.
- Art, Erin Thacker: There was a staff survey with some comments about the Art Docent program. Some of the comments were concerns about the scheduling of art projects, however it is difficult to find volunteers to teach art so it is not easy to be flexible.
- Family Activities, Erin Thacker for Danielle Hunter
 - Science Fair, Invention Convention and Family Engineering Night is Friday, April 21 from 6-8pm
 - Carnival is June 2. Fun Rent items and DJ have been booked.

Nominating Committee Update, Nicole Morgan

- All positions have volunteers except for a co-VP of Programs
- The VP of Volunteers Position will be renamed “FACE” (Family Advocacy and Community Involvement)
- The Slate of Candidates: President – Nicole Morgan; Secretary – Kay Compher; Treasurer – Alison Larsson; Co-VP’s of Programs – Nataliya Khan & Open; Co-VP Programs of Art – Tira Will; VP of Fundraising – Jasmine Brothers; VP of FACE/Outreach– Kristen Slocum; VP of Communication – Jen Catherall; VP of Family Nights – Shauna Myron
- Voting will take place at the General Meeting on April 24

ISF (Issaquah Schools Foundation), Rebekkah Leibowitz

- 19th Annual ISF Luncheon is at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue on Thursday May 11 from 11-1. We have 2 full tables and are hoping to fill a 3rd.
- 4th Annual ISF Breakfast is on Wednesday May 17 from 7:30-8:30am at Eastridge Church in Issaquah
- GlassyBaby fundraiser is on Thursday March 23 from 7-9pm at Blakely Hall in Issaquah. Glassybaby candle holders available for purchase, 10% of proceeds go to ISF

Staff Update (Kelsey Smith): Kelsey would like us to consider adding a line item of Professional Development to our budget for next year. The district does not fund conferences.

Principal’s Update (Drew Terry):

- Drew appreciated all the support and petitioning the district to keep him at Briarwood, however he will be moving to Cougar Ridge next year after 12 years at Briarwood
- Laycie Rader will be moving to Clark Elementary next year to serve as their Assistant Principal
- Next year we will be gaining a 1st grade class and a 4th grade class. K will have 6 classes, 1st grade will have 6, 2nd grade will have 5, 3rd grade will have 5, 4th grade will have 6 and 5th grade will have 5. Kindergarten has 95 students registered so far, another class may be added. The projected number of students is 697. Another portable will be added, location to be determined.
- Drew is one of two elementary principals participating on the teacher contract negotiation team and therefore will not be in the office on Thursdays.
- Kindergarten Assessments will be on March 29 from 7:15-1:15, volunteers needed
- Final Science Tech parent night is at Cascade Ridge at 6pm Tuesday 3/21. Forms are due on 4/17 and the lottery is 4/19, parents welcome.

- Next year we will start a Social-Emotional learning curriculum, with 18-22 lessons per year (about every other week). The new social studies curriculum will be pushed back another year.
- On either 5/24 or 5/31 around 9am there will be a mock earthquake drill, parent help is needed to assist with the parent-student reunion process.
- Grades 3, 4, and 5 will be taking the SBA (Smarter Balanced Assessment) after Spring Break.
- 5th Grade FLASH Parent Preview will be held Thursday 3/30 at 6pm and Saturday 4/1 at 9am at the Admin Building. One of these sessions must be attended to opt out.
- Camp Colman Parent Overview is April 4 at 6pm
- 3rd-5th grade Scratch Club will be taught by Steve Wessel from Maywood. Nominations are being accepted until 3/27 and the lottery will be on 3/29
- 5th Grade promotion will be on Monday 6/19 at 9am. Skating party will be from 1-2:30
- The last day of school has been moved to Tuesday 6/20 due to the 2 snow days

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Submitted by:

Alison Larsson
Secretary, Briarwood Elementary PTA 2.6.5