

Briarwood Elementary PTA

Call to Order: President Karin Manning was not in attendance due to illness. Laila Collins presided over the meeting, and called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Attendance sheet is attached. **Quorum present.**

Grants

- **Kelsey Smith, Mia Palsson, Tiffany Martinell- Leveled Readers for Briarwood Kindergarteners** (See attached grant application) This grant request is for the purchase of a duplicate set of leveled readers that the kindergarten teachers can use during guided reading as well as send home with students for extra practice. These books are Fountas and Pinnell Leveled A, B, C, and D, and there are very few of them in the building. Because these books are very specialized and hard to find, parents aren't able to get them for their kids. The teachers already applied for a \$1000 grant from ISF to purchase Level A & B books, and are requesting a \$1333.62 grant from the Briarwood PTA to purchase Level C & D books. If the ISF grant is not approved, they will use the PTA grant to purchase smaller amounts of A, B, C, and D books or purchase only the C & D leveled books now and ask for another PTA grant in the fall for A & B leveled books.

MOTION (by Leslie Kahler) I move that we approve the leveled readers for Briarwood Kindergarten at the price of \$1333.62, for the purchase of A, B,C, or D level books at their discretion. Seconded by Karen Nelson; no further discussion; vote; **Motion unanimously passes**

- **Ruth Cerna and Meg Kaufman- ASAP/ELL Intervention and Enrichment** (See attached grant application) This grant request is for a total of \$1000 from the Briarwood PTA to be put toward purchasing two more systems within the Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) curriculum. This would be a completion of the F & P LLI curriculum that the school already owns, and would be used for the ASAP program, Title 1 groups, ELL intervention, and enrichment classroom groups. The total cost for the two LLI systems, shipping, and tax is \$10,575. A grant has been submitted to ISF in the amount of \$9,575, so they are requesting the additional \$1000 in a grant from the Briarwood PTA. The PTA grant is contingent on the approval of the grant submitted to ISF.

MOTION (by Leslie Kahler) I move that we approve the ASAP/ELL Intervention and Enrichment Grant, pending approval of the ISF grant, up to the amount of \$1000 for tax, shipping, and handling. Seconded by Karen Nelson; no further discussion; vote; **Motion unanimously passes**

- **Leslie Smith- Reading Buddy Book Conversion** (See attached grant application) This grant request is for bins and rolling carts that will be used to store books for the second grade Reading Buddies Program. Currently the program is housed in an empty classroom, which may not be available next year due to the growing school population. This system of tubs on rolling racks can be stored in various locations so that the program is mobile. Additionally, using the tubs for storage will make it easier to level the books according to the Fountas and Pinnell curriculum that is currently being used. The total grant request amount is for \$537.82.

MOTION (by Leslie Kahler) I move that we approve the Reading Buddy Book Conversion Grant in the amount of \$537.82. Seconded by Karen Nelson; no further discussion; vote; **Motion unanimously passes**

- **Amanda Weinberg- Occupational Therapist- Kimochi's Educational Tool-Kit** (See attached grant application) This grant request is for \$362.72 to purchase a social emotional program for early childhood and primary aged students with disabilities. There is currently no curriculum in the district that specifically addresses social, emotional, and behavior skills in the ECE program.

MOTION (by Leslie Kahler) I make a motion that we approve the Kimochi Educational Tool Kit in the amount of \$362.72. Seconded by Karen Nelson; no further discussion; vote; **Motion unanimously passes**

- **Jennifer Mitchell- Positive Behavior Incentive Program** (See attached grant application) This grant proposal was heard at the November General Meeting, but a decision was postponed because there was not a specific dollar amount/purchase order attached to the request. Jennifer Mitchell is presenting her proposal again, this time with a specific itemized list of prizes. There is an assortment of small and large prizes, some of which will be used for biweekly drawings and others which will be used for larger drawings.

MOTION (by Leslie Kahler) I move that we approve the Positive Behavior Incentive Program Grant in the amount of \$340.91. Seconded by Karen Nelson; no further discussion; vote; **Motion unanimously passes**

Parent Literacy Night

- Ruth Cerna, Briarwood's Literacy Specialist, wants to offer more opportunities for parents to learn about literacy support. In the past she offered parent information nights, but now she wants to offer a session right after school starts in the morning, and another right after school lets out in the afternoon. She also wants to train parent volunteers who can work with students during the school day.

President's Report, Laila Collins for Karin Manning

- Council Report
 - Next Tuesday is Focus Day- an opportunity to meet legislators and rally for education funding. There is a bus leaving Issaquah at 8am, but Karin and Laila will also be driving if anyone is interested in joining them.
 - The Annual Washington State PTA Convention will take place April 25-27 in Bellevue
 - Adam Gardner is moving on to the State Level of competition for Reflections

Secretary's Report- Diane Oberg

Minutes from the General Meeting on Nov. 18, 2013 were presented and approved as written, with a spelling correction: Missoula Children's Theatre (Theatre spelled with *re* not *er*).

Treasurer's Report- Alison Larsson

- Current Balances: Checking \$38,110.28 Savings \$15,043.57
- With the approval of tonight's grants, there is approximately \$2500 left in our Grant's Budget for proposals at the March General Meeting.

VP Reports:

- Fundraising, Tracy Kennedy
 - Family Movie Night is Feb 7th. 8 middle school students are helping, and we have enough parent volunteers.
 - March 21st is McTeacher Night from 5-8pm. Linda Mayberry is the chair, and Kelsey Smith is the teacher rep. We get 100% of all tips and 20% of profits; last year we made \$1600.
 - Cookie Dough- we will use Otis Spunkmeyer again next year, and have earned an extra 1% and \$100 off for signing up by February.
- Communications, Maria Bassett
 - We are using the email service Benchmark for E-blast and our newsletter. We get stats on how many users open our messages and click on links, so we can evaluate the effectiveness of our communications. The newsletter is very time consuming to put together, and only 35% of people read it in the month of Dec. We may want to reevaluate the most effective way to get information to parents.
 - We can now do surveys, either stand alone or embedded in the newsletter. The PTA also pays a fee to Zoomerang for doing surveys. We get points towards PTA Standards of Excellence if we offer surveys to our members.
 - There is interest in creating a PTA specific slogan and a logo.
- Programs, Hollie Archibald
 - Math at Home- There has been a lot of interest in the program; 135 kids participated in Nov. Loan takes pictures of the kids doing math at recess and is sending them to sponsors to show what we're doing. She's going after bigger corporations for more money so that MAH can be a self sustaining program with enough funds to support prizes for participating students.
 - There was a drop in RAH participation during MAH month, so perhaps next year we can alternate the months these programs are offered so that they don't compete.
- Family Events, Louisa Pardo
 - Variety Show and Art and Multicultural Night were both huge successes- thank you to Leslie, Lovenia, and Katie.
 - Missoula Children's Theatre is going live next week with registration. Parents will be required to preregister through the PTA website by Feb 26. The play is *Beauty Lou and the Country Beast*.
 - The Skating Party is Friday, April 25.
- Legislative/VIS update- Levy signs are available. Honk and Waves are scheduled.
- Volunteers Inspire Praise, Renee Emerson
 - Katie Yanek and Lovenia Hardin were honored for their work on Art and Multicultural Night; Sheryl Petersen was honored for chairing the cookie dough fundraiser; Maria Bassett was honored for her great work on Communications.
 - Names drawn for prizes: Sheryl Petersen, Tracy Kennedy, Su Gow, Mindy Johnson, Maria Bassett

Staff Report- Kelsey Smith

- There is a lot of testing going on right now with Stanford and upcoming report cards.
- Next year Kindergarten will be combining curriculum night and parent orientation on Tues. Sept 2 (Back to School BBQ day) at 6pm. Drew will give a presentation at 6:45, and the PTA is invited to speak. On Sept. 3, the first day of school, there will be assessments for incoming kindergarteners along with the PTA's Tea and Tissues event.
- Teachers wanted to thank PTA for their support during contract negotiations.

Principal's Report- Drew Terry

- Kindergarten registration will be occurring in March. On March 26, new kindergarteners will be assessed to see if any qualify for the summer school program. Parents can choose time slots for the assessment when they turn in the registration paperwork.
- With the new mandate to provide gifted education for students in all grades, assessments will be done for K-2 to determine which students qualify. All Kindergarteners will be given 3, 15 minute Cogats to determine if any of them need to take the full assessment.
- The middle school Math Path is changing; there are informational meetings scheduled.
- Positive Behavior Incentive Program- from now on, only kids whose names are drawn for prizes will receive congratulatory calls home.
- Young Author's Conference- Derek Munson will be here on the Feb. 7th.
- The writing specialist was here for grades 1-2, and the teachers have had positive things to say about the training they received. 4th and 5th grade teachers will receive the training in March.
- Tiffany Martinell and Rachel Patty had their babies. Christina Paladino is the Kindergarten replacement, and Vicki Martinson is Title I Math replacement. Jennifer Prado was hired as an EA for preschool and special ed hours.
- Over 90 students are receiving interventions through our various programs.
- Teacher newsletters are trending to blog versions with pictures and child writing.
- Initiative 1080 proposes adding 80 hours to a school year for grades 7-12. If it is approved and the elementary level adopts it as well, it would mean an extra 30 minutes of class time a day or the end of teachers' Wednesday collaboration time.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Next Meeting: Monday, February 24. Board Meeting in the Briarwood Library

Submitted by:

Diane Oberg
Secretary, Briarwood Elementary PTA 2.6.5