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

Anne Livingston, Parent Night Speaker:

- Anne is the author of *Talking Digital: Tips and Strategies for Parenting in a Digital World*, and has a blog at www.kidsprivacy.net. She will be offering a seminar about how parents can provide a safer online environment for their children. This free event is sponsored by the Issaquah PTSA council, and will take place on Thursday, January 29 at 6:30 pm in the Briarwood Library.

Grants:

- **Leveled Readers for Kindergarten:** Briarwood Elementary PTA approved this grant last year, but the order wasn't placed by the end of the year and the funds were not spent. This grant is for purchasing Level C&D books for the Fountas and Pinnell reading curriculum. The price of each book has increased by a dollar since the grant was passed last year, so the total grant cost is \$81.26 more than last year.

MOTION (by Laila Collins) I move that we approve the grant in the amount of \$1414.88. Seconded by Karen Nelson; no further discussion; vote; **Motion passes**

- **Reading Buddy Books and Bins, Leslie Smith:** This year there are 5 second grade classes instead of 4, and the increased number of students necessitates an increased number of books for this program. Most second graders are reading chapter books, which cannot be completed in the block of time allotted for Reading Buddies. These books are set aside until next time, making them unavailable to other students. This grant would allow for the purchase of pairs of appropriately leveled chapter books, so there are always enough for students to choose from. Leslie is fine with using some Scholastic Dollars to purchase books for this program.

MOTION (by Laila Collins) I move that we approve the grant in the amount of \$350, with the caveat that Leslie will try to use Scholastic Dollars to purchase some of the needed books. Seconded by Erin Thacker; no further discussion; vote; **Motion passes**

- **Bear Choir T-Shirts, Nicole Harreld:** The Bear Chorus was opened up to 3rd grade students several months after school started, and fourteen third graders joined. These new students need to purchase Bear Chorus T-shirts, but the T-shirt vendor requires a minimum purchase of 24 shirts. This grant is requesting that PTA pays for the order of 24 Bear Chorus T-shirts, with the understanding that they will be at least partially reimbursed. This year the PTA will be reimbursed for 14 of the 24 shirts purchased by this year's 3rd grade participants. Next year, if the remaining 10 shirts can be sold to future Bear Chorus members, the PTA will be reimbursed for those as well.

MOTION (by Karen Nelson) I make a motion to approve the T-shirt grant in the amount \$244.95.

Seconded by Paul Dutton; discussion; vote; **Motion passes**

- **Mentor Text for Writing, First Grade Teachers:** The new writing curriculum has been in place for one year, and teachers are discovering the importance of using mentor texts so that kids can study how to write by reading examples of good writing. These texts cover all four units of study, are difficult to find in the library, and will be used by all first grade teachers for as long as this curriculum is in place. The grant request is in the amount and \$275.92, which is the cost of the books on Amazon, but does not include tax

and shipping. Mr. Terry suggested purchasing two sets of these texts since there may be another 1st grade class added next year, and the first grade teachers are located in two different wings of the school.

Approving a grant in the amount of \$650 would allow for the purchase of two sets of text, plus tax, plus shipping.

MOTION (by Rebekkah Liebowitz) I make a motion to approve the Mentor Text grant for \$650.

Seconded by Holly Archibald; no further discussion; **Motion passes**

President's Report, Karin Manning:

- Council Report: The Superintendent wants to add a Behavior Specialist to each school to work with high needs students. This plan will start in September, at a cost of about one million dollars district-wide. There will be a Behavior Specialist at Briarwood half time, but it is still not clear what qualifications this position will require or if the schedule will be opposite that of the school counselor.
- Golden Acorn: All PTA members are encouraged to nominate someone for their outstanding volunteer service. The nomination form can be found on the Briarwood PTA website, and all nominations are due by Feb. 13, 2015
- Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee (Diane Oberg, Erin Thacker, and Hollie Archibald) is looking for Board Members for the 2015-2016 school year.

Secretary's Report, Diane Oberg:

- Minutes from the General Meeting on Nov. 17, 2014 were presented and approved as written.
- Correspondence: a thank you note from Kim Hall for the staff lunch, and thank you notes from Ms. Thoresen's and Ms. van Breda's second grade class for the Orange Ruler fundraiser

Treasurer's Report, Alison Larsson:

- Account Balances: Checking \$40,389.81 Savings \$15,047.32
- There needs to be a financial audit for the second half of last year. It will be held at Alison's house on Feb. 2 or 3. Laila Collins, Karen Nelson, Rebekkah Liebowitz, and Erin Thacker volunteered.

VP Reports:

- VP of Fundraising, Rebekkah Liebowitz:
 - More Brown Bear car wash tickets have been purchased for sale on our website; 5 for \$25
 - Cookie dough fundraiser will be March 16-31, with delivery after spring break
 - Briarwood PTA is registered with Everything Party. We will receive 10% of proceeds from sales to Briarwood families. Students will receive a 20% off coupon to help advertise this passive fundraiser.
- VP of Communications, Maria Bassett:
 - There is a survey on our website asking for feedback on the Young Author event.
 - We need more Facebook posters- send Maria an email if you're interested
- Co-VP's of Programs, Hollie Archibald and Erin Thacker:
 - Student directory has been distributed- we ordered 285
 - Yearbook- the committee will be sending a flyer to 5th grade parents about baby pictures and love lines. Another reminder to purchase yearbooks will be sent to parents at the end of February.
 - Skate night is March 13, 6:30-8:15. All tickets will be sold on site.
- VP of Family Events, Laila Collins:
 - Multicultural Night was a huge success with lots of positive feedback.
 - Missoula Children's Theatre- Registration is online, facilities are squared away, and housing has been found for directors, but we still need more supervision for rehearsals. There will be drama classes for the kids who didn't get a part in the play. So far only 12 kids are signed up.
 - Membership: 371 members, which is 72%. Some teachers still haven't joined, even after a personal invitation from our president. We discussed whether access to stipends should be tied to membership.

- Volunteers Inspire Praise:
 - The following volunteers were recognized for their contributions: Maria Bassett, Erin Thacker, Drew Terry, Karin Manning, Danielle Hunter, Jeff Carr, Anela Fiorito, Katie Breuel, Darla Vaughn, Emily Klein, Erin Reddekopp, Sharon Mendoza, Lisa Riccio, and Laila Collins. Drawing winners: Nicole Morgan, Katie Breuel, Darla Vaughn Sarah Dutton, Erin Thacker
 - There is still no chair for Science Fair/Invention Convention. There will be one more plea for volunteer(s) to chair the event before we cancel it.
- Legislative, Paul Dutton:
 - Focus Day was last Monday, and a lot of kids were in attendance because it was a school holiday. Paul had the opportunity to talk to 6 Senators and Representatives from the 5th, 11th, and 41st districts.

Staff Report, Kelsey Smith:

- The staff thanks the PTA for the Young Author's assembly and for Staff Luncheons. The staff would like to get recipes of the items contributed to the luncheons.

Principal's Report, Drew Terry:

- More EA hours have been added to the preschool program.
- ASAP has started. We received a \$15,000 grant from ISF. There are ten groups of 4 or 5 kids receiving extra help in math, reading, and writing. About 3/4 of certificated staff is participating in ASAP.
- Stanford testing in grades 1, 2 and 5 started today and will continue all week. Make-ups will be next week. ELL testing will occur next week.
- Kindergarten registration: Parent Info night will be Feb. 24 at 6:30. With all of the new housing, it is unclear how many students we can expect. Full Day lottery will be on March 11th. Mr. Terry would like help from PTA during registration days and on March 18th for the kindergarten preassessments.
- We are changing photographers for next year from Lifetouch to Dorian, so it will affect yearbook for next year. Spring photos: March 12 will be club photos, Sci-Tech and 2nd grade combo class. March 13 will be all other classes and kids who are specifically requesting individual photos.
- Feb. 24th: ISF donors will come to watch a writing lesson by Ms. Pusey and hear about our ASAP program.
- Mr. Terry is on a committee to help with the district's electronic verification process.
- Smarter Balanced Assessments begin this year in third, fourth, and fifth grades.
 - Smarter Balance measures the full range of the Common Core state standards, and will be administered in grades 3-8 and 11. Expectations will be higher, so it's possible that fewer students will meet grade level standards. Because this is a brand new test for us, there is nothing to compare these results to.
 - There will be 5 days of online testing for each class, so the computer lab, broadcast room, and an empty classroom will be used as testing centers, limiting access to the computer lab from Mar 24-May 26.
 - This test is adaptive; if the student is doing well, the questions get harder and vice versa. This will help to limit frustration. There are also a variety of accommodations that can be uploaded into the system depending on the needs of specific students.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Next Meeting: Board Meeting- Monday, Feb. 23, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Briarwood Library

Submitted by:

Diane Oberg
Secretary, Briarwood Elementary PTA 2.6.5