

PTA General Meeting--September 10, 2009

Attendance: Nancy Sodano, Mary Evans, Tammy Carmichael, Michelle LeRoy, Beth Thompson, Roda Vargas, Christianne Stooks, Chris Carlson, Faye Spence, Jane Hoch, Cheryl Waechter, John Cordaro, Djuana Beane, G. Kerry Raquel-Little, Krista Abshure, Penny Foutz, Jennifer Mahovlich, Andria Lake, Wendy Doncaster, Traci Ockomon, Renata Karwowski, Audra Holland, Pamela Morman, Mary Ellen Stroup, Jessica Foster, Jera King, Melany Decker, Charles Wallace, Cathy Doyle, Sajeev Kumar, Stacey Beard, Elizabeth Wickham, Tammy Harris, Ellen McClay.

Meeting was called to order at 7pm by PTA President, Wendy Doncaster. She asked everyone to sign in with name, child's teacher, email and volunteer interest. She explained that teacher with the most parents attending will get \$50 for school supplies.

Principal's Address: Assistant Principal, Kathy Rackley gave the Principal's Address. She welcomed parents to school and expressed this is a wonderful way to start school year--start of a good partnership. The Principal, Mindy Crawford, wanted to share that we are off to a good beginning of the school year and everything has been running smoothly. Teachers are focused on collaborating especially through Wednesday Professional Learning Team meetings. During the Professional Learning Team time, teachers and staff have worked with Triangle Leadership Academy, and are now working with data to determine their own personal growth plans and plans for students. This includes working on essential skills, SMART goals, and early assessment data at each grade level. We have already assessed every student and hope to respond to those individual student needs.

Vice-President Vote: Wendy Doncaster expressed that due to changes in the PTA over the summer, we need to nominate Vice President, Krista Abshure and take a vote. Penny Foutz made a motion to make Krista Abshure VP, seconded by Djuana Beane. Vote taken, and motion passed.

Request for volunteers: Wendy Doncaster related that bricks have been donated by Penny Foutz to cover the area between sidewalk and school in carpool area. We need volunteers to help lay those bricks on Saturday, Sept. 19th. If any are interested, please contact her.

Fundraising: Nancy Sodano informed the meeting that there will be a Catalog Sale this fall and distributed catalogs for group to peruse. This will be our main Fundraising Event for the year, and we would like to make between \$10,000 and \$12,000. Instead of participating, parents can make a donation straight to the school. Also, right now, we are holding our Fall Flower Sale and flyers have already been distributed for pansies and ornamental vegetables. All info is available on website.

Treasurers Report: Traci Ockomon reported that we have a current balance of \$20,314.75, which is carry over from last year. Expected income plus carry over for year should be \$77,004.75. Total Expenses are projected to be \$63,790, leaving a carry over of approximately \$13,000. She reminded members that budget can be amended and reapproved at future meetings.

Funds Requests:

MP3 Players—Christianne Stooks requested \$500 for approximately 45 MP3 players to be used with at-risk students. In initial assessments, 41% of 1st grade students are below grade level in reading. Teachers would use the players to record books so students could listen to them at home. The players would be barcoded in the Media Center and parents would sign contract for using. Questions were asked about battery life and providing bilingual instructions.

Reading Olympics Medals—Chris Carlson presented a request for \$94.63 to cover the cost of bronze and silver medals. Students in 2nd grade read minutes to “win” a reading medal. This program has been done in 2nd grade for many years.

School Post Office—Stacey Beard requested approximately \$140 for supplies for the school post office. She thought it would be great for students to have canvas tote bags and t-shirts to identify them as “postal carriers” throughout the school.

Time 4 Kids—Stacey Beard made a request for \$508.30 to cover the cost of 115 subscriptions to Time 4 Kids. The magazines are leveled for 4th through 6th grade and have great non-fiction articles about current events. They can be incorporated into the Language Arts curriculum. For next year, we had a discussion about doing magazine booklets for fundraising to get copies.

PE Supplies—John Cordaro requested \$350 for First in Fitness T-shirts, \$76 for bracelets for Mileage Club (incentive to student runners/walkers), and \$49.46 for new soccer net. Also, he and Michelle LeRoy are planning a Sock Hop in November, and need \$50 for food and drink.

KIT Books—Pam Bobay spoke for Cathy Vogt who is requesting \$250 to purchase books to go with the KIT activities. Parent volunteers will be able to have the books available with the KIT to use for instruction

Student Store—Cathy Vogt is also requesting \$250 to purchase start up materials for 2nd grade “School Store.” The store will help students learn to count money, make change and simple bookkeeping skills.

NC Symphony Transportation—Jane Hoch asked for PTA to fund the cost of transportation (busses) for the 4th grade students to attend the NC Symphony.

The tickets are provided, but funding must be done locally. She is estimating the cost to be between \$250 to \$300. This program does affect every 4th grader—is an annual 4th grade event.

Headphones—Cheryl Waechter needs money to purchase new headphones for use with computers. For the computer lab, she is asking for a set of 12 headphones with boom mics. She also needs headphones for computers throughout the school—but doesn't have an exact number yet. The cost is \$9 for headphones with boom mics, \$6.95 for K-2 headphones, and \$15.49 for 3-5 headphones. The maximum amount would be \$1000. Stacey Beard asked that teachers receive at least one set of headphones with boom mics to be used in the classroom.

Media Funds—Pam Bobay requested that monies generated at the Fall and Spring Book Fairs continue to be allocated to the Media Center. The money pays for Library Books, Online Video Resource, Online Computer Resources, Magazine Subscriptions, DVD and CD players, and Library Supplies. The amount is usually between \$4000 to \$5000.

LCD Projectors—Pam Bobay asked for PTA to fund 3 LCD projectors and one replacement bulb. The LCD projectors are used by the whole school. Currently, we have one per grade level, but more are needed to keep up the demand. They are used for classroom instruction. Total cost would be approximately \$2000.

Cultural Arts—Djuana Beane has been working to secure Cultural Arts Performances for our school including an Origami Storyteller, Writer in Residence, Opera for Kids, Drums from other Countries, Mad Science. The request would cover 8 performances for school, 1 for families, and the Writer in Residence. Total would be approximately \$6250—but this amount could be less if we are able to secure grants for two of the artists. Pam Bobay pointed out that the acts are subject to changed based on availability. Roda Vargas offered a suggestion to pursue grants from Ronald McDonald House.

Principal Discretionary Fund—Kathy Rackley made a request for the establishment of a discretionary fund for use by the Principal to provide moral boosters, holiday gifts, etc. This is common practice in many PTAs throughout Wake County.

Paper Cutter and Butcher Paper Rack—Kathy Rackley made a request for \$700 to cover the cost of these two items for the staff workroom. Current paper cutter and rack are unfixable.

Beautification—Kathy Rackley thanked the PTA for sprucing up the teachers' lounge. She is asking for \$500 to cover the cost of beautifying some areas around the campus. This would cover cost of flowers, soil, etc.

Handwriting without Tears—Kathy Rackley made a request for \$3500 to cover the cost of HWT Workbooks for K-5 students. This writing system was developed by an occupational therapist. Discussion about cost and possibilities of splitting cost between parents and PTA. Some parents questioned if books are being fully utilized. Kathy pointed out that it is part of our School Improvement Plan. Stacey Beard suggested that we gather info, but because next PTA meeting isn't until November, majority felt that this would not be an option. We need to order books and begin as soon as possible.

HWT Funding: Motion made by Krista Abshure to ask parents to help pay for HWT—PTA will provide funds up to \$3500 to supplement the difference between total cost and parent contributions for Handwriting Without Tears program books. Motion seconded by Stephanie Drevenek. The group voted and motion passed.

All other requests: Motion made by Nancy Sodano to approve all other requests for funding. Motion seconded by Jane Hoch. The group voted—and motion passed.

Wendy Doncaster thanked all of those in attendance and at 8:35 pm the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Pam Bobay, Media Specialist

Subject to approval at November PTA Meeting