

## Minutes

D.A. Grout Elementary School PTA  
General Business Meeting  
April 5, 2012

1. **Welcome** Call to order 6:35pm
2. **Approval of Minutes**
3. **Principal Report, Susan McElroy-** Our Superintendent feels the infrastructure of our District is crumbling. 110 Teacher positions will be eliminated from Portland Public Schools. There is a \$27 million shortfall. Grout will lose more than one. The cuts especially hurt Title One programs. Thayna Baker asked about Sun School, but Susan said it hadn't yet been decided. She will know in a week or two.
4. There were a few attendees who didn't know each other, so Johanna asked everyone to go around the room and introduce themselves.
5. **Budget / Fundraising Financial Report**—Melanie Symms We've spent a little of the Tile Grant, and some of the Rain Garden Grant. We received a check for \$200 from The Original Taco House for the Dine Out Night. DeNicola's contribution will be here after the Carnival.
6. **Spring Festival of Flags Friday April 12th.** Sarah Price would like to keep the theme of "Festival Of Flags" for the yearly Carnival. Donations to the Cake Walk must be store bought. She would like to have National Anthems playing during the walk. Angel offered to burn some songs to a CD. Susan said we can use the speakers system in the Auditorium. The food that will be offered for sale will include Bombay Cricket Club, DeNicola's, Hoho's Chinese, Hot Dogs, and Popcorn. There will be a Bouncy House. We still need Volunteers.
7. Sarah Price showed the group a sample of the 2012-13 School Year's Grout Tshirt. The new color is Maroon.
8. **Plant Sale/ Garage Sale Saturday April 28th (Angel Vercrusse)** There will be a Multi Family Garage The group decided that the date of the sale needs to be changed to May 19<sup>th</sup>. We have too many events in April. The plant providers are not giving a good response and we don't want to spend a lot of money on plants. Sheila was on the fence about the plant sale. It was decided that the focus will be on Garage Sale, Bake Sale, and Concessions. Some Nurseries are willing to donate items, but they don't really have anything due to the weather. Only a few Families have offered to be involved in the Garage Sale, but Angel thinks it will be a good source of income because people could donate their earnings. People should man their own booth. We can do it outside under the cover, then we won't have to pay the Custodian. A Baseball game will be going on during the sale and that will help. The Southeast Examiner will be called to see if they'll post something for free.
9. **Teacher Appreciation Week April 30th – May 4<sup>th</sup>** The Luncheon is on Wednesday?? There will be a sign up sheet in the Office for people to bring Donuts and Coffee, etc. Are we going to offer Massages this year? Kim offered to give Teachers 15 minute breaks.
10. **Holiday Bazaar** call to Artists. Betsy Miller wants to make sure that the Artists at Grout know that the application to rent a booth at the Bazaar is on the PTA website, and that they need to get their inventory built up. It was noted that Reed has an email announcement system for our events.
11. **New Business**  
**Rain Garden Ground Breaking.** The permits were picked up from PPS. Sheila took them to the City and they gave us our permit for the next day. Since it's planting season, it's time to go now! We need tools and lots of people to dig out the Rain Garden. The first will be Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have

some kind of Ground Breaking Ceremony. We will need 10 to 15 people. It'd be really great if we could get 40 people to give an hour or so of their time. We have 100 plants donated that we need to plant. Everyone should involve their kids. Johanna will put together a flyer to send home. She suggested that we just use the outline we used in the meeting with a flower or graphic on it. She's not worried about people signing up, just come. The Berm will be a bigger project than the excavation. Thayna asked if there will be another work party before the end of the year. We need to touch up paint. A sunny day needs to be scheduled. Johanna mentioned that we also have a bid in from a paving contractor to fix one of the holes where water collects on the playground.

Johanna also noted that we've met with an excavation expert who's going to donate his time. We'll pay fuel and rental costs for his equipment to do the excavation. We have a bid for the asphalt berm to reroute the water on the paved area into the rain garden. We've submitted an order and partial payment to Bosky Dell for part of the plant materials. We also purchased some logs for the garden.

**Thank you Cards:** Johanna showed off the new Thank You cards. They will be in the PTA box if anyone needs one.

Final note: In May we will discuss who will head up events for next year. In June we will have an "End of the Year" celebration.

**Meeting Adjourned 7:35 pm**