

D.A. Grout Elementary School PTA
Minutes for General Meeting
November 18, 2010

Call to Order – President Sara Price called the meeting to order at 6:37pm.

Introductions – Attendees and officers introduced themselves and a talent that they have. Quorum was established.

Welcome and Mission Statement – Read by Sara. Consisted of statements read at previous meetings: Goals for Evening and Key Components for Meeting.

Approval of Minutes – Sara presented the minutes from the general meeting held on October 19, 2010. There were no corrections or additions. The minutes were approved as written by the membership.

Financial Report – Angel presented the budget for people to look and Sara motioned for approval of budget. Budget was approved by unanimous vote.

Principal's Report – Susan McElroy had nothing new to report.

Membership – Membership is at 46 members as of today.

Garden Committee – Sheila mentioned that they had talked to rain garden guy and there is more information about the rain garden needed before proceeding. There was mention of writing up some grants and also talk of moving water cistern to below by the basketball court but it would be in the way. The problem of rain collecting on basketball court will need to be addressed.

Rummage Sale – May 14th

It was decided the Rummage Sale would be held on May 14th. There will be a collection of sale items at a later date. It was discussed as a possibility to have families sell items on their own table and donate the money to the school or it could be the traditional way of the past.. Volunteers are needed: 20 people to set up and 15 people to work the day. It is possible that it could be outside or in hallways. A banner will need to be placed on fence of playground. There will also to the Plant sale and a food sale. Ted will write it up and email information out to people at a later date.

Motions-

The 5% match motion for Camp Kiwonilong was presented by Sara and was approved by members.

It was mentioned that Ted would collect receipts from Goodwill at end of rummage sale. We need PE equipment for the PE department. A motion for \$500 dollars for PE was presented and passed in September.

A motion to give t-shirts to kids for Christmas and to the teachers was presented by Angel Vercruyse. \$350 is needed for polo shirts for teachers. There were questions about giving as gifts versus just buying shirts. It was decided that some would be available to purchase and donations should be accepted. Every student and teacher would get their shirts and wear them on special days. There may be an option of buying sweat shirts. Once the screen is made, any additional cost would just be for the shirts. The screen is the major cost factor. Design for shirts needs to be approved. Design is full image on front of shirt and small design on the polo shirts. The necessary money is available for shirts. The motion for approval of shirt purchase in time for Christmas was seconded by Sara. The motion was passed.

A motion for purchasing and selling bumper stickers for Grout School was presented by Sara. Becky Groebner designed various stickers. 200- 500 stickers should be available for the February Curriculum Night. The designs will be presented and voted on at the January meeting.

Upcoming Activities – The Scholastic Book Fair started tonight. It will go all day Monday and Tuesday during conferences. If you have questions, ask Thayna.

*Saturday December 4th volunteers will meet at the Odd Fellows lobby for a decoration community celebration. This celebration is to thank them for their hard work and donations for the Pancake Breakfast.

*Curriculum Night is February 24th. The volunteer needs are: food and beverage servers, and parents and community members to talk about school.

*March Talent Night – A family night for performances by students and family.

*April Run for the Arts – Volunteers needed to help set up oranges/juice and help with run.

*April 29th Carnival – More volunteers will be needed and information will come at a later date.

*May – Teacher Appreciation Week. A new goal for this is a possible dinner for all staff with student servers along with talents performed for staff by students.

Harvest Party – Improvements for the harvest party were discussed. A need for tickets for cake walk and bouncy house was expressed by several members. Some older children came without parents and there definitely needs to be parental supervision. A possibility of not having a bouncy house was discussed. Parents get upset with volunteers for the long wait and the whole experience turns into a “mad house”. Liz McPhee mentioned that there are other options available to rent instead. Sheila questioned whether the wait in line for the Scary Room was too long? Members agreed that the Scary Room was better this year. It was suggested that students should bring carved pumpkins to place in the garden for the Harvest Party and have more things outside to do. Members agreed that Becky’s Harvest Soup was excellent.

Announcements –

An Escrip Program person is needed. Sherilyn Brown talked about what is required for program. A certain percent of the money from Escrip needs to be spent on Physical Education. Back to School money needs to be collected and receipts gathered. Someone with time to organize is needed to “take it and run with it.”

The Odd Fellows Center wants to do another Pancake Breakfast next year and there is the possibility of having a Holiday Bazaar at the same time. Santa's Breakfast was suggested as a name. Start thinking about things to make for the bazaar next year.

Thayna spoke about PVS (Portland Village School) Charter School moving into SE and she is speaking at School Board meeting on Nov 30th. Her point is that neighborhood schools need to be a priority to the board. School catchments are a factor. This will draw students away from Grout. There needs to be policy about where schools can be located. Liz mentioned that 5 years ago, school closures in the SE were mentioned by the school board and this issue of additional schools often leaves the neighborhood school with low parent involvement. Statistics show that it pulls students away from neighborhood school.

A last minute motion for choosing the design of the T-Shirt was approved by the members.

If there is something you would like to address at the next meeting, motion slip must be in by Thursday, January 13th.

PTA Meetings for the 2010-2011 school year will be in the evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm on the following dates.

Thursday, January 20th, 2011: Childcare Provided

Thursday, February 17th, 2011

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Thursday, April 21, 2011

Thursday, May 19, 2011

Adjournment – at 7:35pm