

D.A. Grout Elementary School PTA  
Minutes for General Meeting August 18, 2011

**Call to Order** – President Johanna Colgrove called the meeting to order at 6:40pm.

**Introductions** – Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

**President's Report** - President Johanna Colgrove welcomed the attendees and recognized the service of last year's board. A formal vote was conducted by the group for approval of this year's President, Treasurer and Secretary. It was noted that we may need a Vice President for the school year. Last year's Secretary, Benjamina Balmer, noted that it may not be a requirement.

**Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the last meeting were available for presentation, but the group opted not to review. Going forward, copies of the past meeting minutes will be available at each meeting. Additional copies are available on the PTA website.

**Principal's Report** - Principal, Susan McElroy informed members that Pacific Source will sponsor the back pack program again, and each student will receive a backpack full of needed supplies. She also let everyone know, if they didn't already, that Miss Haney passed away this Summer.

**Financial Report** – Melanie Symms, our Treasurer, presented the 2011-2012 budget vs. LY. Events and fundraisers that do not apply to this year are to be removed from the spreadsheet.

**Membership Report** – Betsy Miller, our Secretary, gave instructions on how to sign up for the PTA. The fee is \$10, and you may sign up at meetings or at [oregonpta.org](http://oregonpta.org). Former members must apply again this year. We had over 40 members last year, and we our goal is to exceed that this year. A minimum of 25 members is needed.

**Vision and goals for the year** – Johanna presented the goals for the year. Most important is more Parent and Community involvement. We need a Volunteer Coordinator, so if you would like this position or know someone who would, please contact her.

This year we are very fortunate to have the Portland State University Senior Capstone program involved in our school. Susan was presented with art, garden and science residencies. There were nine grants to go through. We will have a team of Marketing Seniors who will design a media kit template, which will include a direction on how to advertise effectively.

**Welcome Packets** – Johanna proposed that Kindergartners and transfer students receive a welcome packet that includes a letter and a Tshirt. All students will also receive new T-shirts and this will be an annual program. We will also sell sweatshirts again this year. All members approved the program and Johanna asked Sara Price to order dark green this year. Sara agreed to have the tshirts available by the Welcome Picnic.

**Upcoming Events** –

- Susan discussed the Kindergarten Welcome night. The cafeteria will not be open because of the floor repair, so she will be ordering food. Susan will welcome the parents and students and discuss upcoming events. Johanna will introduce herself and encourage parents to join the PTA or give of their time. Parents will then be allowed to wander the school and visit with Teachers and each other. We need six to ten PTA members to attend and discuss the PTA and opportunities to get involved.

- Susan and Johanna discussed the Community Care Day on Saturday August 27, from 9:00 – Noon. This is a city wide event and we will be working on weeding, cleaning up the front of the school, and walking the garden.
- Susan discussed the Welcome Picnic coming up on Thursday September 15. Playworks will be on site. The bell will ring at 6:30 to welcome everyone. Lori of Hip Chicks do Wine will provide popsicles, Jamie from Sun School will be there to answer questions and give parents information about their program. YMCA will also have someone on site to discuss their program. Johanna will have a PTA table set up with membership and volunteer sign ups available.

**Garden Update** – Johanna presented the garden update. One Reason we received this grant is because we serve the underserved. The contract is being finalized. We need a technical designer to do our permits. We will need these permits because it's on school grounds, we'll be disconnecting and moving downspouts and a drain, We will also need a landscape architect, so if anyone knows of one we can pay a small amount. Sheila said she will ask the city rebuilding. Johanna would like to use parents and would also like ideas from people who would like to help with the design.

**Fundraising ideas** –

- Johanna would like to have bake sales at the Theater Nights. Possibly sell water and cookies.
- Sara Price volunteered to organize monthly dine out nights, and would like to have them on Tuesdays.
- We would like to know the Teacher's Wish Lists, no matter the size of their wish whether it's paper, tissues, hand sanitizer, even a refrigerator.

**Questions, ideas, brainstorming, comments?**

Sheila Custer brought up the success of the hot dog stand at last year's rummage sale, and how we should do more of those. Betsy Miller noted that this idea was discussed after the rummage sale and that other items that might sell well are nachos and red vines.

**Next Meeting** – Thursday October 6th, 6:30 pm

Theater Bake Sale  
 Harvest Festival Organization – Friday, October 28th  
 Audit  
 PTA Reports  
 Adjournment

Meeting Dates (always 6:30 to 7:30pm): October 6<sup>th</sup>, November 3rd, January 5th, February 2nd, March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th.