

D.A. Grout Elementary School PTA
Minutes for General Meeting October 6, 2011

Call to Order – President Johanna Colgrove called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Introductions – Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the August meeting were approved.

Financial Report –

Melanie Symms, our Treasurer, presented the budget review. Noted that last year we spent \$1650 on T-shirts, which was \$200 over Budget. This year the budget is set at \$1450. Melanie also mentioned that our Scrip Program is a good source of revenue for the school, but so far the response has been low. Johanna noted that last year we made \$3500 from the Scrip Program.

- Liz Davidson noted that she feels the program is confusing. Sheia Custer explained how the program works including how to fill out the form. She also noted some of the percentages that businesses contribute with each card.
- Lana Barry also noted that Safeway contributes to the escrip program if we sign up in care of Grout.
- Johanna asked that someone take the lead to explain how the scrip program works, and Benjamin Balmer suggested we provide the phone number of a Scrip program contact who has good knowledge of the program to share.
- Sheila will create a step by step sheet on how to use the Scrip program, including visuals.
- We also need someone to Volunteer for the distribution of the cards.

Teacher Wish Lists

Johanna asked Susan for a list of Teacher's wish lists.

Ms. Kirk inquired as to whether the list can be Teacher specific. Johanna would like them to be the benefit of all Teacher's.

Fuel Up for Fitness

Johanna noted that we can apply for a grant. We need to explore the program because it doesn't seem difficult to qualify. We will explore the program more.

- Sarah Krick volunteered to follow up on the grant and our qualification.

Benjamin Balmer / Thayna Baker - Camp Kilwonilong, OMSI Camp in Warrenton

The Camp program provides education about nature and survival. Many of the students have never camped before. Right now we do not have formal funding for the 5th Grade two day overnight camp. Cost is \$90 per child, and Parents pay for the trip. We ask Parents to start payment for the camp while their child is in the 4th grade to make it easier on their budget. The most important thing is for everyone to have a chance to go.

- Thayna Baker needs a Parent of a 4th grader to take on the task of coordinating the fundraising for the program.
- Last year Thayna held bake sales to support the program and raised almost \$500 to send five children to the camp.
- Johanna noted that the PTA will also fund some students.
- Betsy Miller suggested that we use proceeds from the Holiday Bazaar since it is a new event and is not designated to fund anything specific.
- A goal of \$1000 was set towards funding of the Camp.
- A question was raised about the number of children who are not able to go due to funding. Susan answered that there are about 15. Johanna, did she say that the school covered them? It sounds familiar.

Garden Progress

The garden is progressing, but permits are going slow.

- Johanna explained the setup of the garden, including a bio swale, which is a rain water collection area. There will also be a series of raised beds to keep water from going directly in to the watershed. Native plants will also attract bird and insects.

PSU Capstone Program

Johanna spoke about the PSU Capstone students and the marketing projects they will work on for our school this year. There are 17 Senior Capstone Students involved in the program. Their first project is the development of educational marketing materials for the garden project. Part of the project will also be the development of a curriculum on the garden and how it works for Grout Students.

- Sarah Krick asked what the rules are for children playing in the garden. Susan answered that the kids cannot go in the garden area at recess because the Teachers cannot see them. Ms. Kirk also noted that it's a matter of safety because stones and the corners of the raised beds could cause injury.

Book Fair: Benjamina for Thayna Baker

The Book Fair is November 16, 17, 18, 21 22. There are multiple short shifts when we need volunteers. Scholastic encourages Grandparents to sign up. There was a discussion on where to have the sale on Wednesday the 16th because Sun School uses it. There will be further discussion on a location for Wednesday. It may have to be cancelled if we can't find a space. Ms. Hamilton would like new reference books.

Volunteer Coordinator Position

Johanna explained that the Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for keeping track of volunteers for each event. Once a week they will update the list of upcoming events, and record volunteers that sign up for events. Johanna asked if anyone is interested or knows anyone who might be interested. Lori Knowles will think about it and get back to us.

Dine Out Nights:

Sara Price is working on Dine Out nights. The first is on October 11th at Laughing Planet. 20% of the days receipts will go to our school. She is working with Papa Murphy's and DeNicola's (who might do two), and Lana is working with Pastini.

Harvest Festival

Scary room – Sarah Krick and Sheila Custer. The PTA will donate \$50 for supplies.
Costume Parade - Johanna
Dance – Liz Davidson
Games
Art Project – Sun School
Food – Sara Price

Rummage Sale

We tabled a decision on whether we should continue the Rummage Sale due to the amount of time spent organizing the event versus our gain.

Next Meeting – Thursday November 3, 6:30 pm. Agenda: Book Fair, Holiday Bazaar, Fuel Up for Fitness, Garden Update

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