

Meeting Minutes
D.A. Grout Elementary School PTA
General Business Meeting
February 2, 2012

- 1) **Call to Order - President** Johanna Colgrove called the meeting to order at 6:35.

- 2) **Principal Report, Susan McElroy**
 - a) Guest Speakers – Kiwanis Club. Bob Munger of the Southeast Portland chapter presented information about the Kiwanis Club and how they support the Southeast Portland neighborhoods, including our school. They participate in our Spirit Assembly, and the kids appreciate the commitment they show them. They work with kids to help them bring up their grades, and award good behavior and strength in character. They are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining, call Bob Munger at 503-267-8382, or to find out more visit www.rikiwanis.org.

- 3) **Welcome, procedural rules, Johanna Colgrove**
 - a) If you need to sign something on behalf of the PTA--don't. Call Johanna, she's the authorized signer and she will arrange a time to sign it for you. (contract, agreement, etc.) If you are in charge of an activity or want to be in charge of an activity, make sure you join the PTA first.

- 4) **Rally** - Dave presented information on the February 20th Rally in Salem. We're hoping to get a big turnout to show support for getting more money. There is a \$27mm shortfall next year. The rally is from 12pm to 1pm. The parking will be free due to the holiday. Buses will also be leaving Cleveland High School for free. Susan noted that the shortfall noted is for PPS only.

- 5) **Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from the January meeting were approved.

- 6) **Budget / Fundraising Financial Report**—Melanie Symms
 - a) We have earned a little more Scrip money.

- 7) **Upcoming Events**
 - a) Family Drama Night February 9th. Need Volunteers for Bake Sale.
 - b) Friday February 10th 1pm Kindergarten Coffee. Room 105. Ben is hoping to get coffee donated by Nosa Familia. He will put out a donation jar for creamer, etc.
 - c) Family Open House and Kindergarten Round Up February 16th.
 - d) Spring Festival of Flags Friday April 12th. Sara Price presented a Jeopardy game that will take place during the Cake Walk. The ticket each participant receives is also a passport. If they land on the country that matches where they land, they get two cakes! There will be international food served – Thai, Chinese, and American. The Bombay Cricket Club is donating food, and the Rheinlander may donate as well. Volunteers are needed. If anyone can donate food, prizes, cakes, or raffle items it would be appreciated. March 1st is Flag Decoration Day. If anyone can make it, the flags are from all the countries we have in our school. Kiwanis will inform their members that we have a need for Volunteers. She needs five people who can pick up food at 5:15pm.
 - e) DeNicola's Dine Out February 21st
 - f) Garden Work Parties Johanna noted that we came up with the plan for the Rain Garden, and we will have a series of work parties. Sheila will organize one on March 4th from 10am to 4pm. Bring a dish to share. The groundbreaking for the garden is coming up. We will need several volunteers to help move gravel and sand.

- 8) **Leadership Discussion**

New Business

- a) Tile Grant – We received a grant from SE Uplift. Kaia is out of the country until August, so we are trying to get most of the work done this Spring. The project will be in the upper garden near the benches. We are going to have the kids make two tiles. One to keep and one for the wall.
 - b) Leadership PTA – June is coming and we need leadership for next year. We have a tradition of changing our leadership each year. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Johanna.
- 9) **Escrip** - Benjamina Balmer noted that we are required to spend 20% of what Safeway gives us. This year we have \$257. We need to spend that money on the school for fitness or nutrition, i.e. Oranges for Run for the Arts. Last year we bought balls. Benjamina will set up an Escrip table during Family Open House to explain the Escrip program to everyone. Register your Safeway card, and when you use it they will give a percentage to Grout. Friends and Family can also use their cards to donate to the school, and the money comes directly to the school.
- 10) Adjournment 7:30pm

PPS PRESENTATION (After the meeting had adjourned.)
ROB – PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rob came to Grout to discuss achievement in PPS and how they measure where each child is in their education and to make sure they are on track for Graduation, College and a career. This happens not only at the school level, but also District wide. One of the key measures is to set benchmarks and how many kids are meeting or exceeding those benchmarks.

Kids who exceed at the grade school level have a much better chance of exceeding in High School level work. There are measures for 3rd Graders and targets are set each year to improve District performance. The target last year was a 5% gain and a narrowing of the achievement gap. PPS met that target last year. The new goal is to raise them another 5%, which includes the kids who are struggling, so really we have to improve by 10% to narrow the gap.

In 7th Grade, if a child is hitting targets, they are considered on track to graduate. The on-track measurement relates to the number of kids who have a C or above average. If they transition from 9th Grade to 10th Grade, they are considered on track and less likely to drop out.

The District wide Graduation rate is 53%. A method called the Cohort Method tracks kids from Freshman to Senior year. We've seen gains at the 10th Grade level the last few years. Last year's graduation rate for Latinos was up +12%.

Kitzhaber recognizes that the funding for schools is not adequate. Measure 5 prevents the increase that was passed last year to contribute \$1.99 more for taxes because of the \$5.00 cap from Measure 5.

Handouts from the presentation:

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/files/facilities/LRFP-factsheet-D7.pdf>

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/files/about-us/PPS-InfoSheet-2012-V06.pdf>