

Brownsville Elementary PTO  
Annual Membership Meeting

June 8, 2010

In attendance: Christina Sandridge, Betsy Grinnell, Megan Sullivan, Melissa Miller, Jeanette Abell, Lori Benedict, Betsy Aronson, Jo Vining, Linda King, Melinda Somers, Suzette Mata, Wendy Bragaw, Michelle Antmann, Danica Plantz, Ian Sole, Sue Brown and Cady Garey.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:35. After a small celebration in honor of Ms. Vining's retirement the minutes were reviewed and Danica moved to approve the contents. Betsy Grinnell seconded and the minutes were passed unopposed.
- II. Reports of Officers
  - A. Principal, Jo Vining

Jo reported that the Field Day was a success as well as the Food Drive; she hopes that the food drive will become an annual event. Jo also spoke about the end of the year assembly and all of those who were recognized, including Mr. Bragg who was honored with a beautiful framed photograph and plaque the will hang in the gym. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade Moving Up ceremony will be on Thursday.
  - B. President, Joanne Meier

Joanne passed as she will speak throughout the meeting. She did comment the assembly was a very positive experience for all of the children.
  - C. Treasurers, Sue Brown and Wendy Bragaw

This year's expenditures are wrapping up. All Reimbursements are due by June 30<sup>th</sup> before the end of the fiscal year.
- III. Old Business
  - A. Currently have \$13,274 on hand for gifting above and beyond CORE expenditures

**B. Gifting Proposal 2009-2010:**

\$2,500 Kid Pan Alley  
\$9,600 – Teacher funds (~41, approx. \$234 each, estimate only)

**General Education (26-29)**

5 Kindergarten (could be 6)

5 in 1st (could be 6)

4 in 2nd

4 in 3rd  
5 in 4th  
3 in 5th (could be 4)

**Special Education (4)**

4 Mega Grissom  
David Via  
Julie Noggle  
Jen Crescimanno

**Specialists (8)**

1 Nurse  
1 Guidance  
1 Music  
2 PE  
1 Art  
1 Gifted  
1 Technology

\$375 lice kits  
\$450 microscope  
\$300 DI Scholarships

**Total: \$13,225**

C.

Ian asked what might be done with possible variance in the budget. The membership can vote that any leftover money can be added to next year's special gifting to teachers. Ian also asked about DI, specifically about the cost per child to participate. In the past, Mrs. Dettmann has used her special gifting funds to pay for preliminary fees for all who participated in DI. The EB discussed that we would like to give a certain amount of funds as a scholarship for those who might not be able to participate OR towards the cost of teams that progressed to regional/state level. The board wanted to make sure that parents of participating students paid for DI since it is an afterschool program and wants to make sure that Mrs. Dettmann has money to purchase items that will be helpful to the children as a whole. The county will continue to support DI financially in some fashion.

Ian moved that from this year's budget variance, \$1000 will be given to the "Book Room" to purchase sets of books for use by all grade levels and the remaining funds will be divided equally among the teachers.

Sue seconded the motion and the motion was carried unopposed.

A balance of \$2,367 will be due to Kid Pan Alley next fall.

## B. Food Drive

Close to 500 pounds of food was donated for the Food Drive. Every child was able to carry an item onto the truck. Linda was very helpful with crowd control. KINDERGARTEN WOULD LIKE TO GO LAST NEXT YEAR. There was also a \$75 cash donation. Perhaps there should be a "Cans of Caring" committee next year?

## IV. New Business

A. Introductions were made at the beginning of the meeting.

B. Final written reports from committees:

Yearbook, Kathleen Capshaw

I don't really think the PTO event form applies to yearbook but here is some feedback.

At this point with yearbook I am interested in grooming a successor down the line so I want some help in looking for a parent who has a child in a younger grade who will be around for a while who doesn't work full time and likes to take photos or scrapbook and is somewhat computer savvy... to approach about it for the future. I can share the role with them for 3 more years if a good partnership emerged. But I think it is wise to teach someone else how all this works.

This year I had Crisanne Barker do the order entry for me and it was great. She is going that again.

I had Claiborne Davis approach all the teachers about getting the students names and spellings into the database correctly and that was very helpful too. Managing the class lists is tedious!

I had a lot of help from Lesli Devito with photography. I definitely think given my lack of time to be in the school this year that it helped me immensely. Lesli and I both think that each classroom should have someone who can take on the role of feeding photos into the yearbook committee and also help to take them when that is an issue. Some classes just don't have enough photos year to year. I try to communicate with the homeroom teacher ... sometimes I have great results and sometimes I don't. I work with Debbie Thomas to get photos from the server at school and some teachers are good about that and some are not. I also get great photos from Cheri Witt.

So the yearbook sort of consists of 3 main roles.... the order taking and student database side (which I split into two parts), the photo gathering and uploading side... and the actual software manipulation/ creation of the pages side.

I work about 20-30 hours a week and managed to do it this year including teaching the yearbook bee classes.

For next year I have Crisanne on board. Lesli is still willing to help. Claiborne probably will too.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation, Amy Life and Betsy Grinnell

The Teacher Appreciation committee had a wonderful year expressing out gratitude for all that they do in many ways. Some of the things we did this year were Sweet Treat Tuesdays, goodies in their boxes, luncheons and supplying them with items for their classrooms. Amy and I feel that it was a very successful year! Thanks, Betsy Grinnell

Arts and Crafts Fair, Tara Giannini

It turned out to be a successful event. It could be bigger with more volunteers before to plan the event. We have a date for next year for the first time and I've got vendors starting to sign up.

Art Print, Kimberly Gale

As the Art Print coordinator I would say that it would be very helpful for me to have the opportunity to meet with the teachers in the fall during one of their teacher orientation meetings, perhaps even before school starts. September at the latest. Communication with the teachers was the most difficult part of my job this year. There were some classes who never got Art Print presentations and who never contacted me about this until the end of the year. So my "wish" for Art Print for next year would be an invitation to a teacher meeting in the beginning of the year.

I will also be requesting from the PTO \$200 again next year for art supplies, books and prints (that need to be replaced).

V. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

A. Parent Council, Ian Sole

There was no meeting to report on.

B. BEE Program, Sally Cushing and Katherine Merhige

No Report

C. Teacher and Staff Appreciation, Amy Life and Betsy Grinnell

Final Teacher Luncheon will be held in old cafeteria on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> with the Theme of a Fiesta Taco Bar. Funny Awards will be given out.

D. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up Ceremony, Wendy Bragaw

This Thursday. Light reception to follow in the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade "Gathering Area."

E. Family Fitness, Melissa Miller

Melissa is a personal trainer and runs a Boot Camp in Crozet Park. The slate is clean for this event. Can be anything we want. Melissa wants to get families excited about health and fitness. Possible Bee Bop tie in. Discussed by those present that this should not be fundraiser. Ms. Vining mentioned working towards a Governor's Award focusing on Health and Nutrition again. Melissa will need a Board member to serve as a mentor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Cady Garey  
PTO Secretary