

Jane Stenson PTA

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2015

Attendees: Steph Azen, Rochelle Brown, Carrie Butera, Taylor Crowley, Wendy Gahm, Jim Harris, Trina Janes, Jenny Kane, Jason Malina, Lisa Malina, Katie McNelley, Rondell Merrill, Bonnie Ognisanti, Julie Oh, Sue O'Neil, Jen Ruffner, Vanessa Schneider, Lois Song and Cyndi Stevens.

1. **Call to Order:** Jen Ruffner opened the meeting at 6:47 p.m.
2. **Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the October 2015 meeting were adopted unanimously. .
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Julie Oh presented the Treasurer's report. The report was approved unanimously as amended.
4. **President's Report:** Jen Ruffner provided her report.
 - a. She is working with a committee to edit the bylaws. The bylaws will be amended to require two people to sign checks of \$200 or more. The officer terms will be staggered. Edits are due by November 15. A draft is on the website.
 - b. Since District 68 is covering the full cost of field trips, the PTA will not need to cover these costs. The PTA will discuss how to reallocate the \$2000 budgeted for this in the future after we have a better understanding of how our current budget needs.
5. **Principal's Report:** Sue O'Neil provided her report.
 - a. She is working on a school improvement plan with a committee of teachers and a community representative. They are creating a mission, and vision statement for Stenson. Ms. McNelly showed a PowerPoint summarizing this process. Among the recommendations are increasing the diversity of the PTA, a focus on instruction and communicating learning objectives.
 - b. The PTA could engage with the ELL Parent Mentors who are volunteering in the schools as part of a 4 month education program. Representatives from the PTA will attend their next meeting.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Membership (Wendy Gahm, Chair):** Wendy Gahm provided a report on membership. Our total membership is currently 110, so we are 20 members shy of our goal of 130 members. Membership cards were distributed through the kids red folders. Thanks to our teacher reps for agreeing to urge the staff to mention PTA in their class announcement emails.
 - b. **Spirit Wear (Karalee Robb, Chair):** Spiritwear will be distributed tomorrow. We still need to sell some of the remaining samples to break even. Many people do not realize that this was not a fundraiser.
 - c. **Innisbrook (Priya Amin, Chair):** Innisbrook orders fell short of our goal. The orders that are being delivered to the school will arrive later this month.
 - d. **Restaurant Night (Karen Lostaunau, Chair):** The next event is on Nov. 4

at Father & Son Pizza. You must present flier when you pay. The Dec. 15 event is at Blaze Pizza. Please RSVP for the upcoming fundraisers at Jason's Deli on February 16 and Epic Burger on March 22.

- e. **KidStuff Books (Carrie Butera, Chair):** Carrie has sold 34 of the 40 books ordered, The deadline was extended, so they will be sold during the Craft Fair,
- f. **Family Fun Night (Karen Koehler-Davis, Chair):** The kids really enjoyed the magician on Oct. 22.
- g. **Original Works (Wendy Gahm, Chair):** Wendy Gahm reported that packets about Original Works will be sent home in folders this Friday. Orders are due back November 18, so the goods will arrive before winter break. We need to promote the event on Facebook and the website.
- h. **Box Tops (Diana Dizon, Chair):** Jen reported that Ms. Visconti's class won the fall contest with 603 Box Tops. They will receive a pizza party donated by Cici's Pizza. The next contest will run November 30 through February 19. Parents are encouraged to trim the Box Tops to make submittal less time consuming for the organizer.
- i. **Library Volunteers (Steph Azen, Chair):** Volunteers are coming in every other week for one hour to help with shelving books. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to volunteer. Stephanie just needs to give the library staff a heads up to plan for volunteers.
- j. **Board of Education (Michelle Harris, Chair):** Jim Harris provided Michelle Harris' report from the October D68 Board Meeting.
 - i. The Board spent time viewing the preliminary PARCC data received from the state. Individual test scores have not been released, are way behind schedule, and there are serious doubts about there being any real value in those scores once parents and administrators do get them. Only 5 states are now committed to taking this test in the future.
 - ii. The School Board voted to have a conversation in the future about potentially videotaping Board meetings for public review. I
 - iii. There are playing fields on the west side of OOJH that are in disrepair. Community members have expressed a desire to have them fixed--a potentially very costly endeavor
 - iv. The Parent Safety Tip Line for District 68 elementary schools is up and running to report bullying.
- k. **Craft Fair (Jenny Kane, Chair):** They have recruited 30 vendors for the Nov. 12 Craft Fair. Volunteers will be needed to staff the PTA that night. Volunteers are also needed to distribute fliers in the neighborhood and community.
- l. **Family Dance (Trina Janes, Chair):** Trina is close to securing a contract for an entertainment company that will provide a DJ, emcee and dancer for the Dec. 4 event.
- m. **Family Game Night (Jim Harris, Chair):** School Board member and Stenson parent Mark Weil has agreed to call the bingo numbers again.
- n. **Silent Auction (Joe Ruffner, Chair):** Donated goods are coming in for the

Feb. 24 event. Graziano's agreed to donate appetizers. The movie shown will be Minions. The licensing fee is higher than in the past, but will hopefully get a sponsor to underwrite the cost.

- o. **International Night (Priya Amin & Michelle Harris, Co-Chairs):** This event will be held on April 7 and many volunteers are needed.
 - p. **New Fundraiser Ideas (Rochelle Brown, Chair):** Please send your new fundraiser ideas to Rochelle.
 - q. **Book Fair (Rondell Merrill, Chair):** The book fair during October 7 and 8 during conferences raised \$580 Scholastic dollars for the school to use to buy new books,
 - r. **Savers (Trina Janes, Chair):** The Savers event is confirmed for March 19. Please save your donated items so Stenson gets some proceeds. We agreed that all proceeds over \$100 will be given to the Stenson Angel Fund. Wendy made the motion which was seconded by Bonnie and then passed unanimously.
- 7. Unfinished Business:**
- a. **Bylaw Changes:** We agreed to amend the bylaws to require 2 signatures on checks over \$200. The motion was introduced by Lisa, seconded by Wendy and approved unanimously.
- 8. Upcoming Events:** Jen Ruffner shared key upcoming events.
- a. Parent Coffee: Nov. 4 at 8:45 a.m.
 - b. Library Night: Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m.
 - c. Restaurant Night: Nov. 4 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 - d. Holiday Craft Fair: Nov. 12 5:30 to 8:30
 - e. Science Fair: Nov. 17
 - f. School Board Meeting: Nov. 19 at 7 p.m.
 - g. No school: Nov. 25 to 27
- 9. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 1 at 6:45 p.m.
- 10. Adjourn:** The meeting was formally adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Trina Janes.