

## Jane Stenson PTA

### Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Monday, October 5, 2015

**Attendees:** Priya Amin, Steph Azen, Rochelle Brown, Carrie Butera, Brandon Celio, Taylor Crowley, Sevan Elmayen, Wendy Gahm, Jim Harris, Trina Janes, Karen Koehler-Davis, Jason Malina, Katie McNelley, Rondell Merrill, Bonnie Ognisanti, Julie Oh, Sue O'Neil, Karalee Robb, Jen Ruffner and Cyndi Stevens.

1. **Call to Order:** Jen Ruffner opened the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the September 2015 meeting were adopted unanimously. The motion was made by Karen Koehler-Davis and seconded by Stephanie Azen.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Julie Oh presented the Treasurer's report. We received \$99 from the Jump Sky High event. The other big expenditure this month was for spirit wear. The report was approved after Jim Harris moved and Wendy Gahm seconded the motion.
4. **President's Report:** Jen Ruffner provided her report.
  - a. Thanks to all who have volunteered. We still need some volunteers to chair committees. Rochelle volunteered to chair new fundraisers.
  - b. The Target Red card program is ending in May, but the school gets 1% of purchases until then. Please register your Target Red card to support Stenson. Last year this netted \$650 for Stenson.
    - Old Orchard Junior High PTA would like to purchase an acoustic system for concerts. They are hoping the feeder school PTAs will help support the \$10,000 cost. Jen Ruffner will suggest that separate fundraising is done by a booster club or that the school district cover this expense. A district PTA fundraiser that is specifically focused on this item could be arranged so that funds don't come out of the regular PTA budgets.
  - c. Superintendent Garwood will be organizing morning and evening parent coffees to get to know the parents in the district.
  - d. Jen volunteered to compile the district-wide PTA directory. This will be completed by mid-October.
5. **Principal's Report:** Sue O'Neil provided her report. Officer Friendly will be at Stenson on Wednesday. Parent-teacher conferences are this week. The Science Fair will be held on November 17 and now includes a technology component. Pride assemblies are held monthly and recognize the students for good behavior.
6. **Committee Reports:**
  - a. **Membership:** Wendy Gahm provided a report on membership. She received a check from the District for \$640. Ms. McNelley and Ms. Stevens helped collect membership from 33 staff members thus far. She submitted the first payment to ILPTA on time for 44 members. We will send an additional payment by November 1. She reminded everyone that all

committee chairs should be members. We currently have 105 confirmed members, but our goal is 130 members. Let's continue to have membership forms available at PTA table at conferences/Book Fair. Membership is an ongoing project. Please reach out to your neighbors, friends from the playground and community extracurricular activities. Please share any suggestions about how to grow our membership!

- b. **Spirit Wear (Karalee):** There were 88 spirit wear orders totaling \$2,532. The clothes should arrive in late October.
- c. **Innisbrook (Priya):** Innisbrook orders exceeded our goal and totaled \$4,200. This should net \$1,680 to Stenson. Orders will be delivered in mid-November.
- d. **Restaurant Night:** Jen provided Karen's report. The September 30 restaurant night doubled Potbelly's typical business. The next event is on November 4 at Father & Son Pizza. They will donate 20% of sales between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. for those who bring a flyer.
- e. **Book Fair (Rondell):** The book fair will be held on October 7 and 8 during conferences. Volunteers are needed.
- f. **Family Fun Night (Karen K-D):** Karen selected a magician to perform at the Oct. 22 Family Fun Night.
- g. **Original Works (Wendy):** This new fundraiser converts children's art into a variety of gift type items. It is imperative that we communicate the timeline to ensure that families get the items before the holidays. Packets will be distributed on Nov. 9 and they must be returned by Nov. 18.
- h. **Cultural Arts:** Jen shared Wannapa's report. Stenson submitted an application for cultural arts grant funding. District 68 has agreed to participate in the village wide SOAR art show as well as District 68's own art show to qualify for funding.
- i. **Box Tops:** Jen worked with chair Diana Dizon and provided the teachers with new bins in which to collect the Box Tops. The current contest will continue until October 23.
- j. **Board of Education:** Jen provided Michelle Harris' report from the September 17 D68 Board Meeting. The district came in under budget last year as a result lower construction costs than anticipated. There is significantly lower-than-last-year kindergarten enrollment across district. This is probably just typical up and downs in enrollment. The District enrollment is up 6 kids overall. 51% of families in district are classified as Low Income. This is a similar number to last year. Only 39% of kids continue from Kindergarten through 8th grade in our district which makes it much more challenging to track "achievement." The Board members will be meeting privately with a specialist and learning about their role in Community Engagement. Dr. Garwood mentioned how the Board's dialogue with the community should occur both when there is disagreement and when there is not. Board members will be learning more about how to better facilitate that kind of dialogue. Dr. Garwood is making himself a presence at school functions so that he can support staff and be a face for the District. The Board listened to and discussed the sub-committee's proposed Vision and Mission statements.

- k. **Craft Fair:** Jen shared that Jenny Kane agreed to chair the Craft Fair. With the event coming up on November 12, we need to confirm vendors. Tables cost \$35. There is a planning meeting tomorrow.
  - l. **Family Dance (Trina):** Trina is seeking creative ideas for a fun event on December 4.
  - m. **KidStuff Books (Carrie):** Carrie has KidStuff books available for \$25.
  - n. **Family Game Night (Jim):** This will be held on January 27.
  - o. **Silent Auction:** Jen reported that Joe Ruffner is chairing the Silent Auction scheduled for February 24. There will be a planning meeting next week.
  - p. **International Night (Priya):** This will be held on April 7.
  - q. **Teacher Appreciation:** All Stenson staff are included in this recognition. Jeff Navarro is chairing the activities.
  - r. **Savers (Trina):** The Savers event is tentatively scheduled for March 20. Once the date is locked in, we will start reminding people to save their donated items to bring to this event. Stenson is paid per pound of donated goods.
7. **Upcoming Events:** Jen Ruffner shared key upcoming events.
- a. KidStuff books on sale: October 6 to 23
  - b. Parent/Teacher Conferences: October 7 and 8
  - c. No School: October 9 and 12
  - d. Board of Education meeting: October 15 at 7 p.m.
  - e. Family Fun Night: October 22
  - f. Halloween Parade: October 30
8. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 2 at 6:45 p.m.
9. **Adjourn:** Jason Malina moved to adjourn and Stephanie Azen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Trina Janes.