

Redmond Elementary PTSA
Board of Directors Meeting
February 11, 2009

Call to Order

President Laura English called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Attendance

Laura English, Shelia Kandeler, Anja Rettig, Katie Chilcott, Angie Christensen, Mette Clarke, Elizabeth Hansford, Janice Heid, Diane Huseman, Tali Guday, Cindy Poon

Minutes

Elizabeth Hansford moved to approve the January minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Anja Rettig and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mette Clarke, reporting for Kerry Lodge, made note of some interesting financial matters. A check for \$228 was received from Sally Foster internet orders. In February, Microsoft matching for volunteer hours equaled \$1,938, bringing the total for corporate matching so far to 8,000 (5,000 was estimated for the budget this year). Also of note is that PACE has already generated \$1,451 (1,500 was estimated for the budget this year). Mette also noted with question that this year spirit wear has only brought in \$72 profit compared with last year's \$600 profit. Finally, box tops currently count at 2, 600 so at least \$260 will come in this year. The deadline for submitting box tops for payment is the end of February. They will be collected until February 19th.

Teacher's Report

Diane Huseman reported that food recycling began on January 28th and, as a result, expenses are now lower and the garbage dumpster is smaller. It was suggested that Mike Town, who teaches environmental science at Redmond High School, might be an excellent resource as we progress with our efforts to be a green school. Ms. Huseman also highlighted the amazing hawk project.

Principal's Report

Ms. Heid reported that the district will be mounting the hawks up high around the rotunda. Ms. Heid also reported that the district has purchased a sound system for each classroom. The system includes speakers mounted in the classrooms, a microphone "necklace" for each teacher to wear, and a hand held microphone that can be passed around. The sound system clarifies the speech rather than just making it louder. Ms. Heid reported that a survey of the kitchen supplies actually shows that there is quite a lot of usable food in the event of an emergency that leaves the building intact. The Valentine Post office is going well, and Ms. Heid sent every child (all 452) in the school a Valentine to make sure everyone received at least one. Ms. Heid reported that the district has posted her position. If no one from the district asks to be considered or if no one is "sent" to Redmond El. then the position will be open for interviews. In that case, a committee will interview candidates and recommend 2 or 3 to the superintendant who will then make the final decision. Finally, Ms. Heid asked the PTSA to consider some type of yearly scholarship

made in honor of Cheryl Pelegero. Any ideas regarding a way to remember and honor Ms. Pelegero are welcome as the PTSA will be considering this request in a future meeting.

New Business

- Katie Chilcott moved to ratify the email vote concerning the additional funds for cafeteria tables. All were in favor.

- Tali Guday presented information on the current status of Redmond Elementary's emergency preparedness. Given the range of emergencies that must be planned for (sudden snow storm to catastrophic destruction), there are many facets that need attention. With this year's budget of \$300 the following items were purchased: a pick axe, shovel, standing lantern and batteries, crowbar, 116 rain ponchos (to bring the supply up to 500, 1/student and staff member), 30 plastic drop cloths (1/classroom bucket for temporary rain shelters), and 192 water pouches (4.7 oz., 5 year shelf life) plus 150 extra pouches donated by the distributor (slightly under 5 year shelf life). Tali reported that Redmond El. currently has no adequate food supply for the emergency supply shed. A minimal order of emergency food bars (28 boxes) with a shelf life of 5 years from Ocean Seven would provide 506 small cubes of dense, high calorie food and would cost \$150. Also, in the 2006 count, there were only 281 Mylar blankets. In order to meet the ideal of 1/person, 220 more would need to be purchased (at \$1.33 each) for \$292 plus tax. Tali outlined some additional items that would be helpful: fresh batteries, scissors, radio, toilet paper, permanent markers, 2-4 big plastic boxes for storage, garbage bags, duct tape, zip ties, big umbrellas, tarps, ropes, bungees, and updated first aid supplies. Tali also outlined areas where she needs volunteers: (1) checking classroom buckets and backpacks (2-4 people for about 2 hours); (2) organizing the shed (4-6 people for about 3-4 hours); and (3) finding future EmPrep coordinators to learn the ropes next year and then take over (ideally, parents of kindergarten or 1st grade students). Tali and Laura will be working together to create a specific proposal for the PTSA to consider. Katie mentioned that community service could coordinate a drive for emergency supplies. It was also suggested that bake sale proceeds could be redirected from the library to emergency prep.

- Cindy Poon offered an update on the Science Fair, which will be March 25th at 6:30. Forms went out to each student. Additionally, the forms are available online, in the office, and from teachers. Forms are due by March 9th. Display boards are available to anyone in need (we have 40 and 48 more will be ordered). It is expected that there will be 110-1130 entries this year as the Quest students are required to participate. There are two dates when Science Fair help will be available in the Library – Feb. 26 and Mar. 2 during lunch. Any volunteers to help staff these help sessions are welcome and needed. If a student wants their project to be eligible for the state competition, the forms are due by Feb. 21st. Volunteers will also be needed for setting up the projects as space will be an opportunity for creative problem solving. Pizza and water will be for sale and there will be free popcorn. In addition, there will be some demonstrations during the fair. All participants will receive ribbons and certificates. The judging process has been refined to decrease the intensity. About nine judges will consider 10 – 15 projects each according to a checklist, and they will choose 1 – 3 favorites to deem “outstanding project.” It was suggested that information on the UW science fair be posted as it is an excellent opportunity for students and families to see what makes great (and not so great) project displays.

- Laura, in effort to inform this year's budget meetings, will have a form for each VP to fill out in order to detail line items associated with their area. Hopefully, this will create a history to go on in the future and ensure that money is being allocated where it is truly needed.

- The idea of hosting an “open mic night” in order to get input from people in general was brought up and considered. In order to hear families’ concerns, ideas, and needs, we need some way to get attendance. It was mentioned that small groups facilitated by board members might encourage people to share (rather than having to speak up in front of a bunch of people). Other ideas included piggy backing such an event onto the new principal introduction or associating it with an ice cream social.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.