

Redmond Elementary PTSA
Board of Directors Meeting
August 18, 2008

Call to Order

President Laura English called the meeting to order at 7:27pm. The meeting was held in the home of Steve and Shannon Hitch.

Attendance

Laura English, Koquisa Bell Taylor, Shelia Kandeler, Janice Heid, Kerry Lodge, Katie Chilcott, Elaine Paul, Bilge Baykal, Alina Mars, Linda Pangborn, Elizabeth Hansford, Janitzia Pizarro, Steve Hitch

Minutes

Review and approval of the minutes from the June 12, 2008 board meeting will be held until the next meeting when the minutes will be available.

Treasurer's Report

The beginning balance for the 2008-2009 year is \$16,355.05, a rather high balance attributed to frugal spending and unexpected income from grants and corporate matching. In July, \$1,270 came in from corporate matching, and eScrip brought in \$ 67.44. Membership Service fees and Interest, which equal \$20.43, account for the remaining summer income. Summer expenses totaling \$552.78 include the Passport Club, leadership training, and supplies for the treasurer. Despite the high balance, board members were encouraged to seek grants again this year.

Teacher's Report

Teacher representatives were not present.

Principal's Report

Ms. Heid reported that for the first time in five years Redmond Elementary has not been used for summer school; therefore, the school is extremely clean. Additionally, members of Creekside Church will be cleaning all classroom desktops and tables in the school as a service project.

The portables have been installed and are not taking up as much playground space as expected. Three tether ball poles had to be removed to place the portables, so the two end bike racks were removed and replaced with tether ball poles. The third pole will go out toward the dumpster. While the half basketball court was displaced, the full basketball court was not disrupted. The teachers have moved in, electricity has been hooked up, and whiteboards/computers are to be moved in during the week of August 25.

The teachers start Monday, August 25th. Class lists will be posted at 3pm on Aug. 28th, followed by the Meet and Greet from 3-4pm.

The teachers for the 2008-2009 school year are assigned as follows:

K-garten: Karen Jones & Monica Moore (Ms. Moore is recently married and has a new name)
1st grade: Janice Corsmo, Alice Fleck, & Amanda Clark

2 nd grade:	Kristen Broadie & Michelle Nice
3 rd grade:	Kacey Heitlauf & Denise Gross
4 th grade:	Rozalyn Strong & Doug Allen
5 th grade:	Teresa Huntley & Mary Hudspeth
6 th grade:	Jan Wilson & Diane Huseman

The Quest teachers include:

1 st /2 nd :	Ms. Moskat
3 rd /4 th :	Ms. Burton
5 th /6 th :	Ms. Redman

Several student teachers will be working in the school this year. Mrs Wilson and Mrs. Huseman are very excited about their student teachers as they are both retired engineers from the University of Washington. Mrs. Nice, Mrs. Fleck, Mrs. Corsmo, and Mrs. Clark are also looking forward to working with student teachers.

Thirteen teachers/staff attended an excellent 3- day math conference this summer where they visited with professors from the University of Washington, worked with teachers/staff from four other schools, learned about the new math standards, and enjoyed some time working together as a staff.

The district is in the process of adopting new math and social studies curricula, which should be selected by the end of this year. The social studies curriculum will not be assessed via the WASL, but it will have classroom based assessments in the area of civics for the 5th graders.

Questions regarding the use of math groups were raised and several ideas were discussed. Ms. Heid mentioned that the use of groups for 5th and 6th grades has been considered given the seeming struggle those grades are experiencing. Grouping 1 day/week has also been considered for all grades. Ms. Heid expressed the limitation the curriculum poses for dividing into groups. Ideally, grades could be divided into three groups; however, the curriculum is not designed for this and there is not enough staff to cover all these groups for all grades. Given these limitations, ideas that could be taken back to the teachers were discussed and included dividing each grade into two groups and utilizing volunteers, who have been specifically recruited to help in this area, to supplement the teacher's efforts. It was noted that such groups would need regular assessments, just as reading groups do, to prevent them from becoming static. Ms. Heid shared that if 1 hour per week per family were volunteered it would equal the hours of 9 full-time employees. Interest in using volunteers as a resource for aiding the math situation was expressed.

Ms. Heid and the teachers plan to decide on standard field trips for each grade during teacher in-service before school starts.

New Business

- Staffing needs for upcoming events were shared. First Day of School Folders will be stuffed on August 27 from 1-4. Parent socials will be held at 9am on Tuesday, September 2nd and Wednesday, September 3rd. Volunteers were asked to focus on reaching out to parents, to be

welcoming, and to resist having board member “business” and side conversations. Sign up sheets for both events were circulated.

- Region 2 training will be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2008. Registration is at 5:30 pm with a variety of classes beginning at 6:30. We have paid for attendance; therefore, as many as want to may attend. Elizabeth Hansford is the contact for anyone who is interested in attending.
- Janitzia Pizarro asked whether we should offer the teachers and staff a special price of \$8.00 for PTSA membership. Currently, teachers and staff are charged \$10.00. \$8.00 is the lowest amount that we could charge given that we have to pay \$7.50. It was decided to leave the amount at \$10.00.
- Janitzia Pizarro also brought up new business regarding the need for Passport Club volunteers to cut laminated maps and fold 400 reference guides. This request spurred a discussion about the pros and cons of using laminated maps. Only ¼ of the laminated maps from last year were returned and several people felt that the maps went unused; therefore, discussion ensued regarding the cost effectiveness and “greenness” of laminating. The alternative of providing unlaminated maps more than once during the year was brought up as well as extensive use of the web site to supplement information. Steve Hitch ended the discussion with a motion to laminate the maps. Katie Chilcott seconded the motion which failed with 5 yeas and 7 nays. Volunteers stepped up for the folding job and will pick up the guides from the office.
- Elaine Paul and Bilge Baykal brought up some fundraising issues for consideration. Pass the Hat will be tried as a primary fundraising effort this year, and the suggested donation/student has been set at \$66, which is half the amount that is expected to be spent per student. The experiences of the Einstein Elementary PTSA, who have shared their knowledge with us, also informed this amount. Recognizing that many families cannot pay this amount it is offered as a target amount not a requirement. To highlight the program, information in the first day of school folder is limited to (1) the Pass the Hat and PTSA membership envelope, (2) the volunteer form, and (3) the first day of school flyer. A power point presentation has been developed and shared with board members and will be used during Curriculum Night to help kick off the Pass the Hat program. A short presentation will be given at the beginning of both Ms. Heid’s presentations with the parents at Curriculum Night. Discussion ensued regarding the best way to collect money and reach the parents who do not get to hear Mrs. Heid speak as they have children in upper and lower grades. It was decided that Pass the Hat/Membership envelopes will be available and money will be collected at the doors of the cafeteria following the presentation. An information table will also be set up outside the office with volunteers collecting money at those exits as well. The timing of this program was discussed as well. Elaine and Bilge proposed to run the program for the two weeks following curriculum night. Following discussion, it was decided that we will continue to pass the hat until October 10th to accommodate the Microsoft giving campaign. Elizabeth Hansford will consider how Microsoft families might be contacted with a reminder about matching and the giving campaign. A list of all matching companies will be maintained on the website. Discussion ended with a call for volunteers to help with the hats and for two board members to count money. These volunteers will be coordinated via email.

The impact of extending Pass the Hat on the PACE program was discussed, and it was decided that starting PACE at the end of September or beginning of October would not conflict too much with pass the hat as it will primarily be emphasized during the first two weeks. It was asked if we have to participate in the child incentive aspect of the PACE program. This will be looked into by Elaine and Bilge.

Efforts to increase participation in the eScrip program will be made at the Bear Creek Safeway on Saturday, September 27 from 10 am to 3 pm. Volunteers are needed to help get shoppers to link their Safeway cards to our school so that we get the proceeds. Volunteers will be coordinated via email.

- Ms. Heid reports that Anja Rettig's husband has made two beautiful units with pockets to house all the pertinent school information papers.
- Ms. Heid also reports that a new website has been created to contain an upcoming events list and updated calendar with current events.
- Laura English initiated discussion about a new effort to disseminate weekly information. Elizabeth Hansford reports that in effort to be "greener" a weekly paper version of kidz email will be tried as a way to eliminate all single use flyers. This will require a new procedure for submitting information for Kidz Email as well as the paper version. Submissions will now be due each Monday for Thursday publication, and they may be sent to kidzemail@redmondelptsa.org and cc'd to communications@redmondelptsa.org. These new procedures will be emailed to ensure everyone is informed. Additionally, Laura asked that an automatic email reminder be sent each Friday as we are getting used to the new system.

Koquisa Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Laura English seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.