

PTSA General Membership Meeting
Grand Ridge Library
November 15, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Attendees: See sign-in sheet

Minutes - Minutes were submitted from September 27, 2011 meeting.

Principal's Report:

- First year that we did conference sign-up online. All but 22 families signed up. Hopefully it was an easy process for parents, and it has been easier for office staff to have all calendars online.
- Encourage people to read the article for next Tuesday's Coffee with Christy. Last one went well. We will structure this one with guiding questions around the article.
- Report cards coming home next Wednesday
- Conferences following week then two weeks to winter break
- Thanks from the whole staff for feeling very supported by the parents as well as the PTSA.
- Number one request from Feed Gilman is teacher's wanting to build their classroom library

Membership – Tana Sinnott

- We have 790 students and 680 families.
- Percentage of families represented is 51% either as individual or families membership.
- Need sponsorship filled. If anyone hears of families who would like to become members but need sponsorship, just fill out form and put sponsorship on it. Confidential.

Feed Gilman – Carolyn Kennedy

- \$15,238 to classroom enrichment. \$150 for teachers, and \$250 for classrooms for a combined grade level grant. Tana Sinnott moves to make the change for Feed Gilman to \$250 for classroom gifts. Kim Goodman seconds. Passes.

Events – Kim Goodman

- Science Fair and Expo is the new name.
- Theora Dalupan reports that they had the first meeting today and it went well.
- February 28 and March 1 are kick-off assemblies.
- The actual Science Fair March 21, turn-in on March 20.
- Keeping it basically the same as last year but more demo and hands on.
- Try to amp it up to entice the older kids to participate with demonstrations.
- Looking for 70-80 volunteers.

Programs – Lisa Callan

- Cultural Diversity Council – new program that we started this year. Kids really enjoying it. Every Tuesday they are doing activities during second recess. November spotlight is Turkey; December is Winter Celebrations around the world. Working on expanding multicultural book offerings in the Grand Ridge library. Culturegrams is a great website for kids.
- Men of Grand Ridge – Tomorrow night they are having a Foursquare for Fatherhood parent education seminar from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Commons.

- Sent out volunteer list to all those who signed up on list at TCBD and two focus groups for participating in recess activities. Not just for dads, but is for anyone. Link on volunteer spot to sign up for recess help.
- Sent out volunteer spot invite for cleaning up grounds, first one is November 19 from 1-3.
- January – having an event for dads/kids to play games. Setting up school’s bowling equipment and some other games.
- Parent Education –Love and Logic going to be at Clark Elementary, March 12-April 2.
- Art Docent – program is well in motion. Clay projects have been started. Also adding in auction projects, which may need kiln for clay or glass.
- Gardening – Recess based activity of building hoop houses using PVC pipes and plastic to make mini greenhouses. Teaching kids about microclimates and that you can grow food in winter.
- Gift-A-Book - Nanette Harvey is the chair of program. 57 books gifted so far and will continue to have the Amazon Gift-A-Book link throughout the year. Thank you to Nanette.
- Reflections Art Contest – just wrapped up and we have 12 entries being submitted to district. Winners at district level will go on to state. Had 41 entries at Grand Ridge.

Treasurer – Pam Cabrera

- See attached budget update.
- Taxes turned in for our fiscal year.
- Starting to write out checks for grants. A lot are using it for books.
- Need to add another line item under Donations for additional grants to use for principal and office/ea’s. Budget is \$450. Jen Rapkin moves to add line item to budget. Theora Dalupan seconds. Passes.

Nominating Committee – looking for a nominating committee to fill positions of Treasurer, Secretary and President. Please contact Kari Leon if you’d like to be on nominating committee.

Auction update – Lida Buckner.

- We received 100th registered guest today. Did an email directly to membership with shop now button.
- Sold about \$1300 worth of raffle tickets.
- All but three classroom auction parent positions filled. Those three teachers will be working to do something simple so those classrooms are represented.
- Using those auction parents to sell raffle tickets. Raffle tickets for sale during conferences. Hoping to be able to sell auction tickets during conferences as well. Selling raffle tickets at Zeeks.
- Only doing pictures of kids of registered guests.
- We have 27 procured items and are looking to do about 120 items. Teacher experiences would be great as well.
- Classroom projects only offered during online auction.

Issaquah Schools Foundation – Lida Buckner

- Calling nights are this week on Wednesday and Thursday nights or Saturday mornings.
- Grand Ridge had 67 families donate, at 10.6%, which is lowest percentage in district.
- So far ISF raised \$177k out of \$250k goal.

Bond Update - Alison Meryweather and Ron Thiele

- Volunteers for Issaquah Schools runs the bond and levy campaigns for the district. VIS exists solely to come around and run bond and levy campaigns.
- Ron Thiele from ISD talked about the \$219 million bond (see attached).
- District cannot pay for campaigns and cannot do advocacy. Some items from bond will benefit Grand Ridge, but also need to remind people who have newer schools that the rest of the community voted to support the bond for our school and we need to “pay it forward.”
- A lot of the modernization and renovation for is safety purposes, efficiency, and to create a better teaching and learning environment. An example is PCMS, which is the newest and largest middle school. It is significantly larger than IMS but can be run for 38% less cost which represents hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in savings – all due to it being newer and more energy efficient. This saves money in the general fund which goes to support the classroom.
- We can pass the bond and still decrease our taxes.
- A quality public school system protects home values.
- VIS Markets the package once it is presented to them. It is an expensive campaign and requires all to participate.
- Things to think about:
 - 70% is the percentage of people who live in ISD geographical area having no vested interest in K-12.
 - 50% is the percentage of parents who are registered to vote.
 - Of registered voters, only 40% will even vote.
 - Need a 60% majority to pass bond.
 - 13,434 actual number of votes needed to pass bond. Most bonds have hit majority but not super majority and are failing. ISD has never run a stand-alone bond before, usually in conjunction with levy.
 - \$75,000 is what it costs VIS to fundraise to run the campaign. \$100,000 is what it costs the school district to even put it on the ballot. Let’s pass it the first time!!
 - It is a very favorable construction and interest rate climate right now, saving us money to do this now.

Kirsten Wisdom makes a motion that the Grand Ridge PTSA endorses the school bond. Theora Dalupan seconds. Passes.

Adjourned 8:39 p.m.