

FALL CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTSA 2.18.15

General Meeting Minutes

November 12th, 2013

Call to Order: Kirsten Patterson

Meeting called to order at 2.08pm by Kirsten Patterson, PTSA President

Approval of Minutes: September 17th, 2013 PTSA General Membership Meeting: Karen Nieman

No corrections, minutes approved as written.

Guest Speaker: Don McConkey, Assistant Superintendent SVSD

Common Core and Smarter Balanced Assessment Testing:

Mr. McConkey began by asking the parents how familiar they were with the new common core standards. Most of the parents had heard of the common core standards and knew a little about them but did not have an in-depth knowledge of what they entailed. Therefore, Mr. McConkey provided some background on the common core:

- Not a curriculum and do not tell teachers how to teach. Strategies of the common core are built into the curriculum.
- Changes in learning for English/Language Arts and Mathematics
- Benchmarked against academic standards from the world's top performing countries
- Aligned to College and Workplace expectations. What kids need to know to get into college and what they need to know if they decide not to go to college.
- Focus on 21st Century skills

Today's students are moving beyond the basics and are being taught skills in the four(4) C's:

- Creativity
- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration
- Communication

The end goal at the time of high school graduation is for all students to be career and college ready. The common core integrates 21st Century Skills and these 4c's in order to satisfy this end goal.

Mathematics: The three shifts: focus (core standards) –coherence(think across grades) and rigor(conceptual understanding, fluency, and application). The standards in math focus on the what(content standards) and the how(math practices).

Teachers are engaging students and helping them make connections. This is a shift in how teachers are engaging kids. The common core standards blur the lines more to integrate different concepts so learning is not separate between subjects (real world scenarios). Students will be mastering skills and going deeper in the subject matters than before.

How can parents help?

Expose children to real world scenarios in math(critical thinking-do not give answers, discuss thinking out loud, calculate at home-recipes, etc..) and expose them to a broad range of non-fiction reading materials (magazine, newspapers, etc..) to make real world connections develop their vocabulary bank.

The objective of the common core standards is that a student should be learning the same skills across states no matter what school they attend. When the bar is raised for kids they rise to meet those expectations.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Testing

New testing will begin this school year (2014-2015) in Reading, Writing and Math for grades 3-8 and 11 except for Science which will continue with MSP for grades 5-8. These results will not count for 2014. No comparative data for first year implementation.

The 2012-2013 MSP results will roll forward and count in 2014 but will be the last year they count. The SBAT(Smarter Balanced Assessment Test) is a computer adaptive test. If the computer sees that a student is having trouble with a question or set of questions, it will adapt the test to provide questions that are less difficult and vice versa. It adapts the questions to the students. More efficient keyboarders is key to writing part of test but this is not considered a barrier. Testing will allow schools and parents to measure and monitor students across the country and how they are performing.

What are the concerns with the current state assessment tests (MSP)?

- Each state bears burden of test development, no economies of scale
- Students in many states leave high school unprepared for college and the work place
- Inadequate measure of complex skills and deep understanding
- Tests cannot be used to inform instruction or affect program decisions
- Difficult to interpret meaning of scores and concerns about access and fairness
- Costly, time-consuming, and challenging to maintain security

What will change with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Testing?

- Provides accurate measures of student growth over time (increase in precision)
- Item difficulty based on individual student responses (questions tailored by student)
- Larger item banks mean that not all students receive the same questions (increased security)
- Fewer questions compared to fixed form tests (shorter test length)
- Turnaround time is significantly reduced (faster results)
- Mature technology (Measures of Academic progress, GMAT, Compass(ACT), GRE)

Key Resources:

English/Language Arts & Mathematics – Parent Roadmap to CCSS

- <http://www.cgcs.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=244>
- <http://www.cgcs.org/Page/328>

National Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

- <http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583>

Common Core State Standards Text Exemplars

- http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf

Sample reading texts, printable poems, practice grammar sheets

- <http://www.superteacherworksheets.com/full-ela.html>

Smarter Balanced Assessment

- <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>

Take the student practice test:

- <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>

President's Report-Kirsten Patterson

Election of 2013-14 Nominating Committee Members and Alternates:

Kirsten Patterson began by reading section 5a from the bylaws to make sure all attendees understood the process for electing a nominating committee. Kirsten then opened the floor to nominations for 3 committee members.

1. Lori Kissick nominated Lori Meyer. Lori Meyer was present and accepted. There were no oppositions to this nomination.
2. Karen Nieman nominated Wendy Talens. Wendy Talens was not present but accepted via email. There were no oppositions to this nomination.

3. Lori Kissick nominated Stephanie Silverman. Stephanie Silverman was present and accepted. There were no oppositions to this nomination.

Kirsten asked for further nominations from the floor. There were none. Kirsten declared the nominations for committee members closed. Lori Meyer, Wendy Talens, and Stephanie Silverman were nominated for the 3 committee members, with no oppositions.

Kirsten Patterson then opened the floor to nominate 2 alternates. Kirsten explained that the elected alternates will attend nominating committee meetings in the event a committee member cannot attend a set meeting. The alternate would be called to serve and would replace the committee member moving forward.

1. Michelle Ingalls nominated Jerrie Crook. Jerrie Crook was present and accepted. There were no oppositions to this nomination.

2. Karen Nieman nominated Jillian Postforoosh. Jillian Postforoosh was present and accepted. There were no oppositions to this nomination.

Kirsten asked for further nominations from the floor. There were none. Kirsten declared the nominations closed. Jerrie Crook and Jillian Postforoosh were nominated to serve as the 2 alternates for the Nominating Committee, with no oppositions.

Kirsten ended by thanking the new Nominating Committee for their willingness to serve. Karen Nieman provided the Nominating Committee members with the Nominating Committee notebook and asked them to review the contents and set up a meeting with the Executive team to go over the information and any questions.

Membership status:

The PTSA currently has 405 members which is 77% of this year's membership goal of 524 members. The PTSA has achieved 100% teacher membership with the generous donations of family sponsorships. The 2013 teacher membership award has been applied for with the WSPTA.

Fundraising Status:

As of today, the PTSA has raised \$55,742.27 toward our annual fundraising goal of \$70,500 from Walk-A-Thon donations. This is \$14,500 shy of the fundraising goal. 381 Walk-A-Thon envelopes have been received to date which is 66% of the total student population. The PTSA's goal is to raise the remaining \$14,500 through No Effort Fundraising activities and a spring fundraiser. However, additional fundraisers may be added in the school year if necessary.

Financial review report:

Thank you to Kelly Faccone, CPA for completing the 2012-13 financial review of the PTSA books on September 25th, 2013. Kelly's review indicated that the books looked good and there were no recommendations.

Thank You Volunteers!

Kirsten thanked all the volunteers that helped for the Family dinner night and Book Fair. It was another huge success and everyone seemed to love the baked potato bar!

Committee Reports:

Legislative Update: Dana Packard

The role of the legislative chair is to focus on advocacy. If parents have questions at the district or state level, Dana can get more information and make it available on the PTSA website.

There is a lot of great information available by the WSPTA on advocacy. WSPTA's advocacy for children has a long rich history and began with advocating for child labor laws. They have also initiated improvements in nutrition by advocating for healthier lunches in schools. The more PTSA members our school has, the more it demonstrates our commitment to our children and helps provide a greater impact on the advocacy issues.

There are three(3) key points that the WSPTA helps with:

1. Identify education issues
2. Initiate actions that need to be taken on the current education issues
3. Recommend policy and take action

The five (5) current issues raised by the WSPTA are the same as last year. Amendments were made to them this year. The 5 issues are:

1. Advancing education reform
2. Fund education first
3. Close opportunity gaps
4. Revenue for kids
5. Highly Effective teachers

Revenue at the state level is drastically below what it needs to be. Defined what basic education is and the amount of credits students should have at the end of high school graduation. Compare what is funded by the state to what is required to get into a four(4)year in state college. School districts have to supplement the deficit from the state through levies and bonds. Revenue for kids focuses on what is fair, equitable and a stable funding model for education for all school districts.

It is important that parents understand the impact a personal letter to the state legislators can have on education. The legislators want to hear from parents. The state received more letters this year on non-education issues. There were no letters by parents complaining about the lack of funding on education by the state, this needs to change! The implementation of the teacher evaluations is a component of advocating for highly effective teachers.

Advocacy Resources:

- WSPTA website
- Child Advocate-available on WSPTA website to all PTSA members
- National PTA website: Common core guidelines for parents

Dana will work with Karen Nieman to get advocacy information added to the PTSA website.

Walk-A-Thon: Michelle Ingalls

Michelle thanked all the wonderful volunteers for another successful Walk-A-Thon, there were over 100 volunteers. Twenty five percent(25%) of the \$56,000 dollars raised from Walk-A-Thon were due to company matching donations. Mrs. Flanagan's 2nd grade class had the largest dollar amount of contributions for first thru second graders(\$5434). Mrs. Sorensen's fifth grade class walked the most laps (1533). Twenty four thousand five hundred fifty laps (24,550) and three thousand sixty nine(3069) miles were walked by the students covering all grades. Some of the top runners in 5th grade ran 12 miles in the two hours. The Walk-A-Thon assembly included "Harry the Husky" and all the students really liked Harry. The Kidz bounce party celebration went well. Michelle is looking for a Co-Chair to help her for next year. She wants to start putting the team together in the spring with a dedicated committee. Lessons learned for next year: Do not label the envelopes, this was a confusion this year. WAT t-shirts were administratively messy, need a new process for next year. Most expensive part of WAT is the feet for the necklaces, and more will be needed for next year. The chalk to outline the fields had to be purchased this year which has been donated in the past. Expenses were more than last year. Michelle will budget better for next year.

Book Fair, Food Drive, Holiday Gift Shoppe: Joanne Haberman

Joanne was absent so Kirsten gave a brief update. Food drive will begin on Monday, November 25th and will run through December 20th, 2013. The holiday gift shop is new this school year and is not a PTSA fundraiser. It is a service the PTSA is providing to allow kids to purchase gifts for parents, friends, and family members. The gift shop will be open on December 2nd through December 6th.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Williams

October P&L:

Income: \$43,247.53

Expenses: \$13,595.03 (no major expenditures as of yet)

Net Income: \$29,652.50

No major expenditures as of yet

Bank Balances:

Checking: \$73,078.16

Savings: \$2501.32

CD's: \$18,004.55

Important Upcoming Dates:

- November 13th: Sahara Pizza Night
- November 14th: 4th Grade Music Concert
- November 16th: Turkey Trot 5k and 1k kids run
- November 19th: SVSD Board meeting
- November 22-27th: Conferences –early release
- November 23rd: Build and Share Food Drive begins
- November 28th-29th: Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 2-6th: Holiday Gift Fair
- December 3rd: PTSA Board Meeting
- December 5th: SVSD Board Meeting
- December 11th: Sahara Pizza Night
- December 19th: SVSD Board Meeting
- December 23rd-January 3rd: Winter Break-No School

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm