

Werner Elementary School PTA
5400 Mail Creek Lane
Fort Collins CO 80525

Minutes of the PTA General Meeting

January 11, 2011

Call to Order The meeting called to order by President Tiffany Haag at 6:23 pm.

Welcome & Introductions President Haag welcomed everyone and introduced the PTA officers.

Review of Minutes Rhonda Robinson moved to approve the November 2010 minutes. Ann Zollman seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Dena Ewan reported:

Beginning Balance: 29,259.62
Income: 4,017.74
Expenses: 3,815.60
Ending Balance: 29,461.76

December Income: 1,956.86

Principal's Report Connie Johnston (Kindergarten Teacher) reported for Principal Camp who was unable to attend because he was attending a school board meeting.

Parent Survey - We will have a survey available, online, January 17 – 31 for our parent community to give us feedback on how we are doing. One of the questions we are asking for input on is the vision for Werner. We will use this information for our February PTA meeting. Email reminders will be sent out to take the survey. Please help us out by giving us your feedback.

February PTA Meeting - For the speaker series, we have Martin Carcasson coming from the Center for Public Deliberation to engage us in discussion about the vision of Werner. As part of our by-laws, we review our Council Covenant (philosophy and beliefs) and Charter (decision-making) every five years. Last year we reviewed our charter and table the covenant until this year. As part of this review, we will be revising our mission, vision, and values and want parent input. Please help us get more participation by coming out to this important meeting. There may even be prizes for coming!

Coffee Talk - Next Coffee talk with Principal Camp is Friday, January 28 at 9:00 am

Old Business **Committee Chair Updates**

Bingo – Will be coming up in March. If you would like to help, let Rebecca Creech know.

Birthday Books – Another reminder will be sent out for those with Birthdays the second half of the year. There are also forms in the office and online. There is a book plate in the front of the book, bookmark, check out the book for the month, then to the classroom for the rest of the year, then it will go to the Library at the end of the year. If money is left over at the end of the year, they will purchase books from Mrs. Decker's wish list.

Book Club – This is a book club for adults. Next meeting on the 20th at Readers Cove at 9 am

Chess Club – Going great!

Community Service – Keep eyes and ears open for upcoming events. Thinking about a food drive in February, but may do action rather than donation. Renee Cohn Jones said that the Food Bank often gets a lot of donations around the holidays then it drops off after the new year. She encourages everyone to donate on their own.

Family Activity Night – Free activity night with dance and music in gym. Keep your eyes open for more information. An international theme is currently being discussed.

Great Books – Will get things going.

King Soopers cards – Buy gift card for \$5. 5% of purchases goes to Werner. December earned around \$460. So far, for the year we have earned around \$1,183. Another informational notice will go out in Friday folders.

Nature Center – Waiting on the boulders, hoping they will get here soon. Committee is meeting on Friday, January 15, at 8:30 am if anyone is interested in stopping by.

Odyssey of the Mind – OM has 5 teams – 2 Primary and 3 Division 1 with about 26 kids total participating. There's still space on teams if anyone is interested. We're planning on going to Longmont for a practice day on Jan 29. The tournament is on March 26 at Fossil Ridge HS all day and is free. It's a great way to learn what OM is all about and support our Werner teams!

Science Fair – Assembly to kick it off was last week. Packets are out – available from office and online.

Spirit Wear – Another flyer will be sent home in Friday folders.

Yearbook – Going fine.

Scholastic Book Fair – Did better than last year – around \$1,900. There will be another one coming up that is buy one get one. Profit goes straight to the Media Center.

Teacher Appreciation Week – If you are interested in helping, contact Amy Jackson. She is just getting started.

Coffemaker - Rather than purchase a coffemaker, or purchase from Starbucks, we decided to use the existing coffee maker in the break room. It seemed to work well at last coffee talk.

Membership – if you have not picked up your membership card, please pick it up. If there is not a card in there, let Tiffany Haag know so you can be registered.

Newsletter - Deadline for February issue is Friday, January 14, 2011.

Cares and Shares Night – Chair Renee Cohn Jones reported on the very successful Cares and Shares night in early December. Had over 250 people attend. As it continues to grow, we hope that groups (Brownies, Boy Scouts, etc..) will be in charge of a table and take care of it. Honor Flight is coming up in

April. There are many ways to get involved...at the moment it is writing letters and drawing pictures.

New Business

Enrichment Program -Ann Zollman talked about the Enrichment Program that we are going to pilot this Spring based on the Enrichment Program at Shepardson Elementary.

Kids participate in the activities (i.e. Karate, Zumba, French, Jewelry Making, Basketball, Knitting, etc..) either before school or after school for one hour. Cost is \$25 - \$35.

Principal Camp will be sending out a survey to get your input on the program (before/after school and activities).

Some instructors may be volunteers, may hire some. There will be one person who will take attendance, coordinate instructors, etc...

Egg Incubator for Kindergarten - Kindergarten Team requested an egg incubator to replace a malfunctioning one in one of the classrooms. \$150 was approved by the Executive Board on 1/10/11.

Stewards of Light – The PTA will host another Stewards of Light child sex abuse training in March/April. It was done last year and the feedback was very positive. A donor and the PTA will pay for staff members who come. Parents will pay \$15.

Classroom Grants – Historically the PTA has held a classroom basket fundraiser to grant each classroom teacher \$200 for individual budgets for the current school year. Instead of having donations of items for the baskets, we are thinking about asking for a \$10 donation instead.

- Someone suggested to leave the amount open, so that people do not feel pressure to donate, if they cannot.
- Another suggested a “Bakeless Bake Sale” – instead of using what you would purchase to bake something, donate that money.
- One participant asked what the \$29,000 in the budget was used for and why that couldn’t go to this. Dena Ewan briefly explained what the money was used for in the past and where it is budgeted this year.
- One participant said that it should be explained what it will be replacing, it’s not just asking for more money.
- Another participant said that the events serve as community building events and they should remain. President Haag agreed and said that the hope is that this concept will be well received by the community and we can eliminate many overt fundraisers next year, and be able to hold more of our events free or at cost.
- Another participant said that the school she came from had a visible pledge – and they met the goal every year.

February Meeting on Vision and Mission – The topic for the February meeting on Vision and Mission may sound dry, but this is very important to the school and is our chance to give input on where the school is going. President Haag encouraged everyone to attend. The current Vision, Mission and Values were presented and they are on the website as well.

Watch for the survey, should be out next week and open for two weeks.

Adjournment

Ann Zollman moved to adjourn the meeting. Rhonda Robinson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:08.

Speaker Series - "What Makes a Good Parent?" 10 Most Effective Practices presented by Scoot Crandall, Director of Team Fort Collins

This presentation shared recent research on ten competencies that predict good parenting outcomes.

Scoot Crandall is currently Executive Director of TEAM Fort Collins. TEAM is a community coalition, which promotes a healthy lifestyle without the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs in Fort Collins, Colorado. Prior to working with TEAM Fort Collins, Scoot served as a Teacher, Counselor, and Trainer/Consultant with Poudre School District for 27 years. Scoot and Wendy have had the joy of raising four (now grown) kids in Fort Collins.