

Abernethy PTA Community Meeting minutes, 10/18

Attendees: Julia Silverman, Caryn Anderson, Heather Hull, Kirsten Isaacson, Gretchen Kilby, Richard McNeill, Jake Weiss, Gennevieve Weiss, Molly Jarvis, Heather Wenrick, Nathan Engkjer, Beth Burns, Kary Rappaport, Karen Liao, Jami Haaning, Jen Wallace, Rashmi Vasavada, Cressa Schuster, Anne Dujmovic, Melissa Masini, Alex Bassos, Emily Stone, Sarah Warren, Stephanie Hart, Cassie Louie, Vanessa Morgan, Murielle Adair, Corinna Horsell, Elliot Levin, Amanda Cort, Will Comerford, Kevin Rudiger, Ian Honohan, Juliann Squires, Beth Cavanaugh, Hanna Nesper Newell, Helen Rabold, Emily Chenoweth.

Kirsten Isaacson calls the meeting to order at 6:33 pm

Hanna Nesper Newell makes a motion to approve minutes from the 9/27 meeting. Stephanie Hart seconds. Motion approved unanimously.

President's Report: Kirsten Isaacson

- Tour de Ladd was fantastic. Almost every student participated in some way, and we had great weather. It looks like we are going to meet our fundraising goals which is great. Hats off to the many volunteers.
- The PTA has set aside \$5,000 for grant money for programs that are new and interesting ways to enrich the lives of students. Applications will be available in the next week. This is open to all staff, community members, organizations that work with our students – as long as we are benefiting and enriching their learning experience, it is fair game.

New Business:

- The Shadow Project is looking for volunteers for audio books to help support reading. It's a 1-2 hour a week commitment. Please check with Stephanie Hart or Sara Albert if you would like to help out.

Presentation: Astrid Casto, "How to talk with your children about race and racism"

- We have to feel comfortable rolling our sleeves up and being comfortable with the conversation. Bring it up all the time. Even if you start putting your foot in your mouth, that still means you are comfortable enough to have the conversation.
- At 0-3 years old, kids will notice racial differences but don't understand the concept of race.
- At 4-6 years old, kids can identify their own racial group. Use media, toys and literature to introduce the concept of race. Use broad, basic easy conversation — you have only a few minutes to get your point across. Make it fun; have a dialogue.
- At 7-11, kids have a firmer understanding of their own identity. They try to identify with available role models, both negative and positive. Movies and books and documentaries can be a big help for this age group. Take your children into communities and place where they might not look like everyone else.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 after motion from Julia Silverman, second from Gretchen Kilby.

Appendix: PTA Committee reports, submitted in writing prior to meeting

Communications, Gretchen Kilby: The first PTA Digest will be going out on Monday 10/15. Still looking for third member for our committee to handle PTA Digest and backup on the MM. Will run blurb in MM again and also in PTA Digest.

Finance, Craig Stack: Monthly finance reports are posted on Dropbox. Please review and let me know if you have questions.

Membership & Chinook book update, Dawn McNeill: PTA membership is currently at 171 members. Reminder: We are required to have all PTA leadership listed as paid members, other board members are strongly suggested to hold current membership. Kirsten Isaacson or Carolyn Duran should update the leadership list (or let me know if I should do so) on the OregonPTA.org site. I still expect to add a total of approximately 8-12 "free" memberships as part of our equity initiative. I am working with Jenny Morgan and Joyce Chow to get names/forms submitted anonymously for those folks. We are currently running behind our membership goal of 248 members (based on Oregon PTA target of 10% growth from last year's 225 membership total). We have sold 40 Chinook book/app combos, 28 apps and an additional 12 online app purchases. This is still below our normal sales level (76 print and 44 mobile total sold last year), but I expect we will continue to see some app sales and renewals via the ongoing online initiative. All Chinook books and apps have been distributed either at an event or to the oldest child's teacher for the child to bring home. Overstock of books will be returned to Chinook once I have verified that there are no outstanding orders.

Advocacy/Equity Committee Update, Bethany Cavanaugh: We will be holding our first committee meeting on Monday, Oct 22nd at 6:30 in the Abernethy library, with child care available. The committee chairs (Mark, Beth, and Joyce) have met with our area's State Senator, Kathleen Taylor, attended the PPS Parents Talk Race meeting, and discussed priorities for advocacy, equity, and inclusion within Abernethy (topics that will be covered in the 10/22 meeting agenda).

The committee's goals include sharing actions that can be taken in the Abernethy community to advocate for stable and adequate education funding from the state, as well as using an equity lens to consider practices

within our district and school. We will meet once a month, liaise with the Conversations about Race group, and report back to the PTA board.

Tour de Ladd Update, Carrie Richardson: It has been a bit of a struggle to figure out exactly how much money has come in from Tour de Ladd from the 3 different revenue streams. At this time, our totals appear to be: \$41,202 - Collected money in Pledgestar either received via credit card or check. \$2641 - Money collected via credit card in Shopify (Non-Pledgestar pledges). So, I believe that there should be a total of \$43,843 already collected. There is also \$3,389 in pledges outstanding on Pledgestar that are showing as unpaid. There are also several people who have written to say that they have not collected pledges from their paper pledge sheets because they were not returned to them. I'm not sure how this would have happened. We collected paper pledge sheets from the office, then returned them all stapled to the Lap Count Letter that was sent to every student that participated in TdL. There were only a couple paper pledgesheets in each class. I don't know if perhaps teachers never turned them in, or somehow they didn't get handed back to the students with their Lap Count Letters, but there appears to be a handful of missing pledgesheets. Those parents said that they would try to "recreate" and send in those pledges when they could. So, I'm hoping that some more pledges are still collected. There also seems to be a potential issue with Pledgestar not accurately marking a sponsor as "paid" when a check was sent and logged into the system. We are looking into that as well. However, overall we think that Pledgestar did help to bring in more money than previous years and as we work out the kinks, it has the potential to be an even better system. The feedback, in general, has been very good.

Mini Grant Update, Kirsten Isaacson: Minh Nguyen is leading the charge on mini grants. Applications will be out very soon and due mid-Nov. Grants will be out the door in early December.

Auction Update, Terry Franks: We had a volunteer meeting on the 10th that went very well. We will have another meeting in mid-Nov to solidify committee roles and then, we'll be cooking with gas!

Grounds update, Vanessa Morgan: Two main things to update everyone on: First: I'd like to plan for a grounds work party on November 17th, 9 am to noon, in order to clean-up and paint the kiosk near the playground entrance at SE Birch and Elliott and on removing Canada thistle.

Secondly, I would like to broach a discussion regarding the ongoing maintenance and future replacement of the artificial turf field near the playground. After this summer's replacement of the Cleveland HS field and after discovering unused tubs of infill material near the greenhouse, I decided to look into artificial turf's longevity and maintenance needs. The field is now 8 years old, having been installed in 2011 with PTA funds covering materials & labor and PPS paying for permits and soil compression testing. The plan submitted with the permit shows there is no shock pad (used more in newer installations), but rather just 4" of rock, 2" of sand, turf with 2" of crumb rubber infill.

This brings two issues to mind:

- 1) *Do we want to start fundraising now for future replacement of the field in 2-4 years?* PPS did GMax testing this summer that suggest the field is, for the large part, showing average wear for it's age (tests results across 10 different locations on the field ranged from 147-187; when levels reach 200, the field needs to be replaced). It's approximately \$15-20 per sq foot to install new turf and we have 4,000 sq ft. That means raising perhaps as much as \$80K.
- 2) *Do we want to add additional infill to increase shock absorbance in the short term, and if so, what do we add?* The infill in these fields helps to keep the "blades" of the turf upright to be somewhat shock absorbent and needs to be periodically re-applied. To my knowledge, the stockpile of infill we have has not been applied since the field was installed. The infill most

commonly used is “crumb rubber” which is finely chopped up rubber from recycled tires. There is a fair amount of research looking into the chemicals contained in crumb rubber (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, phthalates, and heavy metals like zinc, cadmium, lead) based on the concern that exposure, esp. to younger children, may be a long-term health concern. I've asked the PPS Facilities for their recommendation on whether to apply additional infill or not... awaiting word from them on this point.

I know there is rightful concern regarding general safety as well as exposure in our community to heavy metals and other chemicals. I'd be happy to look into this further and, if the board sees fit, to bring issue up at a community PTA meeting.