

## FALL CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTSA 2.18.15

### General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2009

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:35pm by Amy Click, Co-President. Proper notice of the meeting was given and the Treasurer's Books were on hand and available for review.

**Approval of Minutes from the Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 General Membership Meeting:** Dan Schlotfeldt made a motion that the minutes from both the Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Cathy Renner and the minutes were approved as written

**President's Report:** Amy Click announced the SVSF annual fund raising lunch is Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Amy asked that we continue to donate \$250 to the organization. Dan Schlotfeldt explained to the audience that the foundation funds teacher learning institutes, provides teacher grants, finances above and beyond programs, gives money for active boards and science room projects. Karen Hunt made a motion to approve the \$250 PTSA contribution. Sophie Harris seconded the motion.

2009/2010 planning – The following committee chairs are open. This list represents some, but not all, of the open committees that need chaired: Assemblies, Directory, Public Relations, Playground Support, Spaghetti Dinner, Book Fair, No Effort Fundraising. Let any of the PTSA executive members know if anyone is interested.

Amy thanked the Nominating Committee Chairs, the Science Fair Chairs, and Stacey Gardner for her contributions to the Walk A Thon.

**Vice President's Report:** Miranda Thorpe spoke about No Effort Fundraising and that it is especially important that the Albertsons card holders need to re-link their cards online to continue using them. Box Tops and Farmhouse Market receipts are also a good source of income for the PTSA.

Staff Appreciation: March was the classified staff month and the Teachers staff month is in May. Charlotte did a whole week of planning and events. Charlotte was not present, but provided the following note:  
"The week began with breakfast in the staff room with assorted muffins, bagels and cream cheese, fresh fruit, and croissants. Starbucks donated the coffee and there was also fruit juice and tea. All the FCES bus drivers were invited to the breakfast as Thursday was 'Bus Driver Appreciation Day'. The bus drivers were all given a small plant. On Tuesday all the classified staff received a primrose in a box. Wednesday was dessert day. Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who contributed to this event there was a wonderful array of sweet things. On Thursday the classified staff received a hand written card and a key chain/cell phone charm. The week ended with a luncheon in the staff room. Families donated pasta dishes, salads, desserts and drinks. Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4th - 8th. Similar activities are planned. There will also be an all staff raffle at the end of the week."

Miranda finished by saying we are in need of volunteers for both the upcoming raffle and for staff appreciation week in May.

**Trese Rand:** Trese Rand, one of our Sci-Art teachers, stopped by to say that after 10 years of doing Sci-Art that she still loves the kids and loves being at FCES. She thanked the parents for letting her teach and the PTSA for helping to fund the art program.

**Treasurer's Report:** Gloria Fischer reported that for budget planning purposes for the 2009/2010 school year, committee chairs need to see what they spent this year and give an estimate for next year. We would like for everyone to turn in budget requests by April 17th in order for us to complete the budget for 2009-2010. We will present the budget at our last general meeting in May for approval.

**Principal's Report:** Dan Schlotfeldt congratulated PJ Duvall, who received the Snoqualmie Valley School Foundation's Classified Educator of the Year award. PJ is great with the kids, and has been a welcome addition to FCES. He has maintained the school fantastically for the last 3 years.

The Golden Acorn Award Nomination form is now on the PTSA website – Miranda Thorpe added that any exemplarily PTSA member in good standing can be nominated. More than one recipient can be accepted. The deadline is April 25th. Winners this year will do awards for next year. Shining star awards will be given for those nominated.

Counselor Kelly Stinson began a "Girls and Moms, adolescence - True You" group class. It uses a self esteem for girls curriculum. The group started last week with great response. It is offered for 4th and 5th graders and is held after school hours.

Teachers worked on improving punctuation today after school instead of when they would usually do this, which is on early release Friday time.

18 teachers recently had group of administrators come into their classrooms to participate in the “**5 dimensions of teaching and learning.**” The goal is to teach in such a way that a child can tell you what they are learning if you ask them. The amount of parent volunteers in the halls working with the children impressed the administrators. One of the other principals said he was envious and wished his daughter could attend FCES. 5-15 minutes were spent in each classroom observing.

**Teacher’s Report:** Barb VanOveren - Volunteers, visited another school, no comparison to the parent help we have here. Thank you!

Citizen grants: Meg Handy wrote a grant and received 4 solar panels. There is website that you can go to that shows the energy the panels are producing. Kids get hands on with that.

Author Live is free this year through the King County Library, so Meg Handy, our school librarian, wants to know if she can use some of the PTSA budgeted for Author s Live towards the electrician for the solar panels. Gloria Fischer said it would simply be a transfer of funds, so no vote needed.

Reusable Bags: Contest - kids can make and sell reusable bags. Does anyone have an inside to bags that can be donated?

Mr. Anyan just sent off 100 blankets to Union Mission.

There has been lots of art and writing going on around the school. Kids take off this time of year.

Composting: There is an opportunity to compost worm boxes, which is a lot of fun for the kids. We would need 15 business and several schools to commit as composters before we can begin the program. King County would also come in and talk about recycling with the kids.

Birthday Club - Library will pick a book and dedicate it to the birthday child for a fee. So far the library has had over \$2,000 come in this year.

**Election of 2009/2010 Officers:** Amy Click explained that the main goal the PTSA Executive board had this year was to set things up to try to stagger the officers coming in so that there wouldn’t be two new Presidents at any given year.

Connie Rosenberger read the WSPTA Bylaws regarding Officer Nominations.

Chris Butler announced the nominating slate: Amy Click and Sophie Harris - Co-Presidents; Lori Cobb and Fran Ellul – Co-Vice Presidents; Connie Rosenberger – Secretary; and Treasurer- Bess Carter.

Cathy Renner motioned to approve the slate, Tracy Egan seconded the motion.

\*All executive officers, with the exception of the Secretary, have authorization to be a signee on the PTSA accounts.

#### **Committee Updates:**

**Raffle:** Cheryl Duncan

Each classroom will have a basket theme. Raffle drawing will be May 7th. Tickets are \$1 each.

If you’re interested in being a room representative, let Cheryl Duncan know. We are licensed to sell up to 10,000 tickets. We sold around 7,500 last year.

We may have another food drive and Cheryl would chair this, too, in the spring.

**Legislative:** Cathy Renner

The bond is official tomorrow, March 25<sup>th</sup>. The bond passed with a 67.2% yes vote!

House bill and senate bill - Funding Basic education - some things are not under the basic education umbrellas and can be put on the chopping block. Many districts are on the verge of bankruptcy.

To be included in Basic Education: A full day Kindergarten, Highly Capable programs, 6 periods of high school classes instead of 5. (Currently, local funds pay for 6th periods in high schools) Please email your local representatives!

**Guest Speakers:** Dan Popp and Craig Husa – Newest School Board Members

Round of applause for the bond passage!

Dan: Introduced himself, lives in Ames Lake area, has 5 children currently attending schools n the district.

Craig: Craig introduced himself. He is the newest board member, one month of service so far. Has lived in Fall City for 8 years, has 2 children currently attending schools in the district.

Dan: The circumstances on how they both found themselves on the board was similar. There were openings and both positions are being filled as interim positions. It’s a great time to step in! The bond just passed and there is a renewed energy going on in the board

room. Managing our district is no small feat. With the two of us here, we bring a different perspective, a new energy. We still have a lot of work to do. There are some tough budget decisions to be made. A lot depends on what happens at the state level. We have a huge budget shortfall statewide.

Craig: Budget planning starts tomorrow at Chief Kanim, 6:00pm, and in the morning at the district building, 7:30-9:00am. We put in for stimulus money, but are not anticipating getting it. We are looking for all sorts of funding to cushion the shortfall. We both represent the entire district so feel free to contact any board member in the district with concerns.

Dan: We don't want anyone to see the final budget results and be surprised about it. We need to be informed on what we are thinking. We would much rather make decisions based on your input.

Craig: At the end of the day, a decision needs to be made. Then we are forced to carry out the decision, so input is critical. We (Dan and Craig) need to let everyone know what's happening.

#### Questions From the Audience Followed:

One parent expressed concern over the quality of education and location of the high school.

Dan's response: As an administrator he appreciates "out of box thinking". There is a new sense of energy within the district and good questions being asked. With that being said, the geography of the high school is a challenge. The number of kids, growth wise, has sharply dropped off. We've got some creative thinkers coming up with some good ideas. The addition of modular class rooms, a new eating area, will improve the environment of Mt. Si. Dan is on the long term planning committee. No one is willing to say, yet, what will happen as far as a new high school goes. We have a 52 mile long district, an incredibly diverse group. In the meantime, he makes the trek back and forth to Mt. Si daily because that's the reality of the situation. That's all his kids know, and they are happy. Good news is that we have some time to figure it out. One year, maybe two, a decision will be made, but not today.

Craig: The population growth has changed. The short term plan is get the items on the newly passed bond agenda going.

Cathy Renner reflected back and suggested that maybe the new bond high school that was defeated 2 years ago is now a blessing in disguise. How would the district in its current budget crisis be able to handle the opening of a new high school this fall?

Dan: In the meantime, what do we do? His family has made a commitment to getting kids there and back. His 2 boys attending Mt. Si High School are getting a great education. Hasn't had one moment of dissatisfaction.

Craig: Compared to other eastside area high schools, we are equal or better in many areas.

Leann Shaw shared her concern about her children's safety on the Day of Silence at the high school.

Dan: Day of Silence is a student organized event. It is a nationally student driven event. In general, the students have a right to free speech, but can't do anything that will disrupt the learning process. The school goes over these guidelines with the students. About 14% of the school population stayed silent throughout the day last year. There was also a 47% absentee rate last year on this day.

Mr. Schlotfeldt: Every school in the district goes through a cultural awareness training now.

Pat Hutcherson: Ms. Hutcherson shared some history about her husband and what led up to the protesting several years ago. She feels that the ASB is losing their authority base. The ASB would like to negotiate changing the Day of Silence to a Day of Respect which combines a day of respect recognizing all differences. She requested that Dan and Craig talk with Randy Taylor, principal at Mt. Si High School, about giving the ASB an opportunity to organize this.

Mandy Smith: Mandy has a nephew who is a junior at MTHS on the ASB. He really feels there is a divide. He supports the "one day of respect" idea to represent all diversity groups. Maybe the adults should step out and let the kids figure it out? Something to consider.

Amy Click asked about the amount of money that is allocated for the school district's Public Relations budget. Dan explained that Carolyn Malcomb is in charge of PR and they are all looking for ways to get all the positives out there about our district.

Fran Ellul: Confirmed that there are definitely some great things going on at Mt. Si based on the high school kids that participated in our science fair back in February. The kids at FCES loved the high school kids and the interaction they provided. Maybe we could have some students from the middle and high schools talk to the younger kids about their experiences?

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

**Next General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, May 19th, 2009.**