

Present: Jessica Rzeszotarski, Cathy Todd, Dina Baker, Audrey Woliner, Linda Fieldhouse, Sonja Olsen, John Blowers, Holly Fitzgerald, Kim North, Ralph Rothacker, Kelley Johnson, Bob Rafferty, Lynette Albright, Judy Gibson

The meeting in the Stevens Library was called to order at 7:01 pm by Cathy Todd

Approval of Minutes

- March Meeting Minutes were distributed and reviewed.
- Motion to approve minutes made, seconded and passed.

Presidents Report – Cathy Todd

Thank You to:

- Lynette Albright for organizing the PARP program.
- Karen Orlop for her work with the Silvergraphics program.
 - ♦ There has been a lot of response in regards to the possibility of this program not being offered next year. The PTA is looking into avenues to possibly continue it.
- Kim North for running the book fair and to all the volunteers who helped with the book fair this year.
- Denise Stewart for organizing the Pajama Party and the volunteers who donated food and drinks and helped at the event.
- Tina Crocetto for organizing the Kindergarten Registration which once again ran very smoothly.
- Paula Wunderlich and Colleen Grabb for their work on the yearbook.
- Kelley Johnson for her work with the Odyssey of the Mind team and to the team for their success this year.

Odyssey of the Mind

- The OM team began working last fall meeting once a week and then eventually up to twice a week by January. The team really came together and worked nicely together.
- They learned about how to make a vehicle go and built environments for it to travel to. They learned to work as a team and work together.
- There were 3 fifth graders on the team, who won't be back next year and 4 third graders who all expressed interest in participating again next year.

Upcoming Events

- April 3rd and 4th – BH-BL Theatre for Children – production of Grease, Jr. at the High School.
- April 8th and 22nd – Stevens PTA Science Nights at 7 pm.
- April 29th – 5th grade Parent Orientation at the Middle School at 7 pm.
- May 15th and 16th – Plant Sale pick up.

Principal's Report – Ralph Rothacker

- Thank you for your help with Kindergarten Registration.
 - ♦ It looks as though we will have four sections in each building again next year for a total of 12 sections of Kindergarten.

- There has been a new program approved for use during the Kindergarten Orientation and the staff is being trained on this now. It is called the Dial 3 program and is a screening tool that looks at speech, language, and motor skills. The students will rotate through stations spending roughly 15 minutes at each. This will take place on one of the orientation days the students are here for.
- Third Grade teacher Mrs. Hopkins has announced her retirement.
- The Budget is still being discussed and it seems as though staffing will be affected but we won't know exactly how until the Budget is approved and passed.
 - ♦ There are retirements that will be happening but we don't know exactly if we will replace those positions or how we will rework them until we know what the budget will be.

Teacher's Report – Audrey Woliner

- Sue Cifaratta has resigned as a teacher representative for the PTA and Audrey Woliner has stepped in to fill the vacant spot.
- Curtain Update – We do feel that enough money was raised to replace the curtain- over \$19,000 was raised. However, it is a much more complicated process than originally thought. The school has to put the project out to bid and the bid needs to be very specific, so we are at the point of having the bid drawn up. We were hoping to have the curtain put in this spring, but realistically it will probably be sometime over the summer.

PTA Council Report – Linda Fieldhouse

- The last meeting was in Mid-March and much of the conversation was concerning the budget.
- The High School is looking for a new sound system for the High School Stage and they are hoping to get one donated.
- O'Rourke Middle School will be holding their last monopoly event this year. They also recently had their Rock and Bowl event which was very successful. On June 19th the 8th Grade Award Ceremony will be held at the High School.
- There are still scholarships available and we are seeing a decrease in the number of kids applying for them. There is a misconception that students might not be eligible for scholarships and some are going unclaimed. The PTA Scholarship has only one applicant thus far.
- The Grease Jr. Production has 70 cast members and is set for production this weekend. They will be offering a Jane Coffey scholarship starting this year as well.
- Charlton Heights had their BOGO book fair and held PARP activities for only one week. They are going to be having a Spring Bulb sale this year as well.
- Pashley currently has their Curiosity Shop going on.
- A discussion was had regarding Teacher Appreciation Day and what we should do to honor the teacher on this day. Typically the schools all do their own thing and it is thought that it would be nice to all do the same. There are bylaws regarding giving gifts, etc. to teachers and they need to be reviewed to ensure we follow protocol with whatever is decided.
- The Arts and Enrichment grant will not be available to us next year – it is one of the areas that are being affected by the Governors budget cuts.

Building Council Report – Amy Agan

- Not in Attendance.

Officers Reports

Treasurer’s Report – Bob Rafferty

- \$13,405.12 in savings and \$11,049.26 in checking.

President Elect – Jessica Rzeszotarski for Amy Aldrich

- The Nominating Volunteers have stepped up to fill the vacant positions for next year and they are as follows:
 - ♦ President Elect – Sonja Olson
 - ♦ Vice President of Fundraising – Kim North
 - ♦ Vice President of Programs – Candy Burchett
 - ♦ PTA Council Representative – Cathy Todd
 - ♦ Two Vacant Building Council Positions – Dina Baker and Jackie Ballinger

Committee Reports

Science Nights

- The science nights will be held on April 8th, which is booked, and April 22nd, which still has a handful of openings.
- Volunteers are still needed and you can contact Bob if interested.

Parent Education – Dina Baker

- Girls, Inc. will be presenting a program for parents about Bullying in School. This program is in conjunction with all three elementary schools. We need an additional \$70 to cover our portion of the program cost.
- A motion is made to take \$70 from the student program enhancement fund for the parent education program. The motion is seconded and approved.

Book Fair/Pajama Party – Kim North

- The Book Fair was a successful event again this year even though we did see a decrease in profits from last year possibly due to the state of the economy and the fact that the program ran a shorter time frame than previous years. We received \$140 in coupons to redeem through scholastic in addition to our profit of just over \$2,000.
- The topic of publicity was brought up because some people overheard comments that it was not highly publicized. It is believed publicity was conducted the same as it had been in previous years, but it is something that will be noted for the next book fair chairperson.

Board of Education Report – John Blowers

- The lobbying letters generated by the efforts of the PTA primarily at Kindergarten Registration were presented to the legislature. This six day campaign yielded 126 letters so it really helped to show that we have an active community here and want our voices to be heard.
- The Health and Wellness Team came and presented to the board about the activities they are doing to help the welfare of our children. Part of the discussion centered on the stresses that children face today much more so than in the past. A lot of activity has taken place to create a support system for students who are feeling stressed. The DARE officer was also present to speak on this topic and discuss results of a parent survey concerning this matter. Overall, we feel we are serving the children well in this area.
- The Physical Education Audit review came back and there were areas that were overlooked that we had not received credit for, so after another review, it does appear as though we will meet the state requirements.
- Student Achievement Night will be at the next Board Meeting on April 21st at the High School. It is an evening where the administrators from the various buildings in the district showcase their students achievements.
- The final Budget Forum meeting was held and again had a good turnout and much conversation regarding the budget was generated. Community reaction and feedback was presented to the Board.
- The final Finance Committee meeting will be April 2nd at the High School at 7pm.
- Next Tuesday the Board will vote on the Budget and at that point it will be presented to the community.
- Anyone wishing to run for the vacant School Board positions has until April 20th to submit their application. On May 5th there will be a meet the candidate night and the voting will take place on May 19th.

Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday May 6th

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Submitted by Jessica Rzeszotarski
Stevens PTA Secretary