

Present: Sonja Olson, Will Farmer, Judy Gibson, Ralph Rothacker, Bob Speck, Betty Hanson, Amy Aldrich, Liz Henglein, Patrick Hackenberg, Jessica Rzeszotarski, John Kelch

The meeting in the Stevens Library was called to order at 7:00 pm by Amy Aldrich

Welcome and Introduction of Attendees

Presidents Report –Amy Aldrich

Approval of Minutes

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

PTA Update

- The Burnt Hills Theatre for Childrens production of Wonderland will be this weekend at the High School.
- A recent report of area schools graduation rates showed that of the 13 schools in the Suburban Council, Burnt Hills is ranked in the top with a 93% graduation rate.
- There has been a change in the district transportation policy effective immediately: all 1st graders in addition to kindergarteners must have an adult present to meet them at the bus stop.
- The ShellStrong Stroll for Life will be held May 1st – 2nd at the High School.
- The PTA Scholarship award applications have been submitted and will be reviewed to determine who is awarded the scholarship this year. All applicants must be former Stevens students.
- The Pink Sheets have been edited and will be distributed soon.
- The Reflections Reception for regional winners will be held May 29th at Ballston Spa High School. Winners have been notified.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Walk-About -May 12th
 - PTA Staff Appreciation Day - May 19th
 - Stevens Variety Show – May 21st
 - Stevens Concert at the HS – May 20th
 - Transportation Breakfast – June 2nd
 - Spring Fling – June 4th

Principal’s Report – Ralph Rothacker

- Mrs. Mele is out on maternity leave and Stephanie Manuel is her replacement and doing a great job.
- ELA Exams will take place over 3-4 days next month followed by the math exams. Every school will now also take a field test for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to test questions for possible use on future exams and those tests will immediately follow the ELA and Math exams. It is a very busy time of year with the state tests.

- Teacher Placement for next year is in the very preliminary stages. Many factors are taken into consideration when placing both students and teachers each year and everything needs to be firmed up before teacher and student placement can begin. Overall seniority in the district will come into play with teacher placement. After the teachers have been assigned, student placement can begin.

Officers Reports

Treasurer's Report – Amy Aldrich for Bob Rafferty

- Account Balances: Checking \$9,307.84 and Savings \$15,294.24
- Silvergraphics has taken in \$8,300 and had expenses of \$4,947 with leaves us with a profit of \$3353 which is over our goal of \$2,800.
- Science Night had 75 participants last night and will have another 50 come through next week.
- The 5th grade party is budgeted \$1,200 income and a \$2,000 expense with the PTA covering the \$800 gap per year. The 5th grade can raise additional monies – they've raised \$1,400 so they've got a \$200 cushion right now. Typically expenditures have been around \$2,600 so they still need extra money to cover it. If they haven't raised the funds to cover that, they need to come to the PTA to request additional funds.

Teacher's Report –Betty Hanson

- The Tools for Schools orders have come in – thank you!
- June 4th there will be a Brooks BBQ fundraiser through Student Council at Stevens.

Committee Reports

- **Nominating Committee – Sonja Olson**
 - Someone has been found to have an interest in each of the available Executive positions. They are listed as follows:
 - President Elect – Renee Commisso
 - Secretary – Liz Henglein
 - Treasurer – Patrick Hackenberg
 - Vice President Homeroom's – Christine Molluso
 - PTA Council Rep – Cathy Todd is stepping down and Charlene Spetla has agreed to step in to fill her term.
- **Fundraising – Amy Aldrich**
 - The Bulb Sale is still going on – orders will still be accepted. We have a net goal of \$600 for this event. Half of any profit exceeding our goal will again go to the school to assist in the purchase of the agendas for the students.
 - The Spring Fling is still in need of a chairperson.
 - The Book Fair was a success! We have a net profit of \$1910 at this point and our end goal is \$2000.

- The Capri Sun pouch recycling program has raised \$55 so far this year and will be ceasing sometime mid May due to concerns about the warm weather and the juice attracting bugs.
- The Target red card program has raised \$150 so far this year.

<i>School Board Report – Bob Speck</i>

- The School Board has approved a preliminary budget based on a 2 tier approval. The Board really does not want to see the district have to go into any further tiers.
- Some important dates:
 - April 27th – The Budget Hearing
 - April 29th – Budget Newsletter goes out
 - May 4th – Meet the Candidates Night
 - May 18th – Budget Vote
- If something was to change and suddenly money was to become available through the state, things might change; however, we’re running on the assumption that will not happen. Options of what to do with that money would be restore funding to cut programs, apply it to the tax levy, or put it back up into our backup funds that we’ve been digging deeply into between the current year and now next year.
- The Board extends their compliment to the staff of the district – they have worked very cooperatively with the Board, which is helpful and appreciated during these difficult financial times.
- John Kelch adds that he has been involved in the last few months Board and Budget meetings. He believes we have a very conscientious Board who unfortunately has the task of making some very tough decisions due to the financial situation we are currently in. They have worked very hard on our behalf and work very long hours in order to come to the decisions they make.
- Amy Aldrich has copies of the letter that the legislative task force created that residents can utilize to send to their legislators in regards to minimizing cuts, supporting mandate relief and opposition to unfunded mandates. The letter can be used as is or edited to your liking. The contact information is listed on the overview letter. It is best to send the letters hardcopy as emails are deleted and deemed ineffective. Phone calls are also very effective to get our voices heard. The letter and information is also available via the school website if you would like to pass along the information.

<i>School Board Candidate – Will Farmer</i>
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- Mr. Farmer introduces himself as a candidate for one of the vacant school board seats. He is a 15 year resident of the district with children in 1st and 5th grade at Pashley Elementary.
- Mr. Farmer expresses his deep concern for the community as well his belief in a well rounded education.
- His personal concerns for the future, in addition to the current budget crisis, are at the state level, the seemingly abundance of state exams our children are faced with and changing

antiquated laws still on the books, and at the local level, the access of the community to the School Board members. Mr. Farmer believes there is a way to create a more open dialog and easier way of communicating with School Board members than currently exists. Mr. Farmer would like the opportunity to be a part of the School Board team whom he believes work very hard on behalf of our kids.

- Mr. Farmer thanks the PTA for the opportunity to introduce himself to us and for allowing him the time to speak. He concluded by reiterating his concern for our children, his desire to be a positive addition to the School Board and by respectfully requesting your vote on the 18th.

The next PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday May 5th at 7 pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Submitted by Jessica Rzeszotarski
Stevens PTA Secretary