

Present: Cathy Todd, Amy Aldrich, Dina Baker, Audrey Woliner, Linda Fieldhouse, Sonja Olson, Betty Hanson, Kim North, Ralph Rothacker, Kelley Johnson, Bob Rafferty, Jessica Rzeszotarski

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

Approval of Minutes

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

Vote on New Officer Nominations – Amy Aldrich

- Thank you to Charlene Spetla and Jessica Rzeszotarski for being a part of the nominating committee.
- The nomination for President Elect is Sonja Olson – the motion to nominate is made, seconded and passed.
- The nomination for Vice President of Fundraising is Kim North – the motion is made, seconded and passed.
- The nomination for Vice President of Programming is Candy Burchett – the motion is made, seconded and passed.
- The officer elections will take place at the June meeting.

Presidents Report – Cathy Todd

Upcoming Events

- The Walk-a-Bout and the Ice Cream Social is tomorrow night, May 7th, from 7-8:30.
 - ♦ Nancy Keatley is heading up the Ice Cream Social and is looking for volunteers to help scoop and serve.
- The Budget meeting will take place at Cathy’s house on May 13th at 6:30 pm. It would be helpful if the new officers could be there because the budget is reviewed line by line. Committee chairs have been asked if they think their programs would need budget increases for next year.
- Staff Appreciation Day is May 13th and Sue DeVito is looking for donations for food and baked goods for the Italian themed luncheon. She also needs volunteers to help set up and break down – contact Sue if you can assist her.
- Plant Sale pick up at Stevens on May 15th and May 16th.
- Stevens Concert on May 27th.

Prom After Glow Party

- \$200.00 was donated by the Stevens PTA to the Prom After Glow Party which is a program that we support annually.

Fundraisers

- A meeting was held with two fundraising companies prior to this meeting concerning fundraisers for next year. We are looking to do one fundraiser again so that we are not continually asking things of families.

- Another new fundraising idea was presented to the PTA by Sherry Simmons concerning the Capri Sun Juice Packages. Capri Sun currently has a program for collecting packages and they will give schools 2¢ back for every Capri Sun package and 1¢ back for any other competing brand package. Sherry has agreed to head this program and we are looking into where to place a box for collecting. This program would not only create a small bit of revenue for the school, but would also help promote recycling.

Principal's Report – Ralph Rothacker

- Everyone has been busy preparing for the Walk-A-Bout.
- The Second Grade will be taking the TerraNova exams next week.
- We are still looking at staffing changes for next year part of which will be based on the budget so it should be finalized soon.
- Kindergarten Orientation is coming up beginning next week. The testing portion is still working out kinks as it is the first year we are running this program. There are three sections a student will meet with each specialist for approximately 15 minutes but the speech seems to need a bit longer. Pashley is going through it first, so hopefully by next week it will run smoothly for Stevens and then the following week at Charlton Heights. Following the testing, class placements will be looked at and that process will take approximately 4-5 weeks.

Teacher's Report – Betty Hanson

- Thank you from the staff for the Price Chopper TOOLS for Schools rewards.

PTA Council Report – Linda Fieldhouse

- Transportation Staff Recognition Day will be held on Wednesday June 3rd and we will need volunteers from about 9-10:30 that morning and baked goods and fruit to serve 10-15 people. Contact Lisa Fish if you can help with this event.
- Linda Fieldhouse is willing to chair the SilverGraphics program if it continues next year. The PTA is looking into continuing it as a PTA program possibly and not through the art department.
- Linda Fieldhouse expressed her interest in continuing the coordination of library volunteers for next year. This item was removed from the pink sheets by PTA officers, along with other items, to help promote volunteerism in PTA sponsored programs.
- Linda expressed that her Founder's Day budget can be decreased from \$300 to \$150 for next year.

Officers Reports

Treasurer's Report – Bob Rafferty

- \$13,405.12 in savings and \$10,150.00 in checking.
- Paid out for Ice Cream Social, PARP newsletter, Science Night and the Prom After Glow donation.
- Summer checks usually total between \$7,000-8,000 mainly for Arts and Enrichment.

Committee Reports

Parent Education – Dina Baker

- On Monday evening a workshop on Bullying put on by Girls, Inc was presented with about 15 parents in attendance. It was a program that was put together quickly and because of that with limited advertising, so unfortunately attendance was low. However the parents that were in attendance were very concerned about bullying and thought the program was extremely worthwhile. Therefore, we are looking into running another workshop possibly in the fall and hopefully more parents, staff and PTA members would be able to attend.
- Some of the issues raised at the workshop were questions about how the schools handle bullying issues, how to better handle playground areas and bus issues, and how to increase training for staff on bullying. It was suggested a committee be formed to address bullying issues.
- Response from Ralph Rothacker – It is a serious issue that the schools are aware of and are continually looking at how to better handle bullying. We can't use volunteers in positions that work side by side with positions that are part of a bargaining unit. It is important to educate kids on how to act and react so that when staff, teachers or parents are not present their behaviors are appropriate. Training has been discussed for staff, bus drivers and monitors. Pashley recently did a school wide program that was very successful and Jill Bonacio is going to share that program with the other building principals.

Arts and Enrichment – Cathy Todd for Jackie Ballinger

- May 29th Ellen Sinopoli workshop will be held on team building with 4th graders.
- Author Peter Lowrie will be here the end of May and early June and will work with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. He currently has a journalist following him for a story on how he works with children so our school will be part of that article.

Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday June 3rd.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm

Submitted by Jessica Rzeszotarski
Stevens PTA Secretary