

DRAFT

Kirkland Junior High PTSA 2011-2012 General Meeting Minutes October 4, 2011 KiJH Commons

Call to Order: Julie called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. Sign in sheet is attached.

Guest Speaker: Christina Thomas, Principal LWHS, presented the highlights of LWHS and the changes coming with the addition of 9th grade: --High academic achievement with AP classes, plus in-class honors distinction for grades 9 & 10; community service focus; excellent arts programs; new electives in culinary arts and video broadcasting. --Personalization via a House System for core subjects (excluding AP courses) to improve teacher/students connections. --Academics through content teams using common assessments, grading and collaborative review of student work. --Unique programs such as Hispanic Outreach and LW After Hours. Ms. Thomas stated Parents Night for 8th graders is scheduled for January 9, 2012, and 9th graders on January 10 in the LW Theater.

Guest Speaker: Melissa Wrenchey, KJH Teacher, expressed her appreciation for the work the PTSA does for teachers, staff and students. She spoke of the classes she teaches: Computers Applications, Robotics, Game Design and Digital Photography.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from May 16, 2011, were approved by consensus as written.

Principal's Report: Debbie McCarson spoke of the many changes to and coming to KJH: there are 585 students enrolled, 60 more than last year with possible variance changes and grandfathering in AG Bell students for next year; 6 new teachers have been hired to replace outgoing staff; reconfiguration of pods will occur for 2012/13 year to accommodate 6th graders, as well as possible re-working of daily schedule; 6th grade will have an LASS block, Math/Science block and full year PE/Health; school sports programs may change, possibly new sports added; hoping for netbooks for all students, will retain computer labs for now; Olympic Math, Catch-Up Café, Power Hour & library internet access will continue.

Ms. McCarson also stated:

--An Anti-Bullying Assembly is scheduled for October 20;

--4 party planners are needed, 2 each for planning 8th & 9th grade end-of-year parties;

--Magazine Drive sales are at approximately \$10,000 to date; sales continue through 10/14.

Presidents' Report: Julie explained the new meeting format, with each Board Representative/Committee Chair submitting a written report in advance of meetings to be attached to the Agenda. Updated PTSA Calendar, Committee Chair list and Teacher Wish List were provided. See attached for full report.

Council Report: See attached

Treasurer's Report: See attached report, Proposed 2011-2012 Budget and Monthly Financial Report.

Committee Reports: Full reports attached.

Communications: Helen reminded attendees to spread the word to sign up for PantherGram.

Programs: Liz reported that play rehearsals will be held at KJH. Sign-ups will be early due to the need to commit to Studio East; approximately 40 students will be needed to produce the play.

Ways and Means: Julie reminded attendees to sign-up for eScrip. The Passive Fundraising position is still open which will handle setting up the Amazon fundraising link.

Membership: Lena and Maria continue to receive student/family information for the Directory, though numbers are still much lower than last year. It was suggested this is due to the forms being online and requiring download. Publication of the Directory is on hold until more sign-ups are received.

--Maria explained that the LWSF raises funds to be disbursed back to schools for programs such as the Back-to-School drive and can be used to fund the purchase of Wish List items. Schools must submit a grant requesting the funds. Grants submitted this year are for the next school year. \$110,000 in grants was requested from the Foundation last year, yet only \$83,000 was approved for disbursement, none of which were for KJH. Ms. McCarson stated that 2 grants were submitted, but not funded. It was suggested that many grants received were not well written and that there is a grant writing webinar on October 17. Maria also stated that the Foundation invests funds with InvestEd which then disburses funds to Students in Need as requested.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

--Julie stated Nena Chaing has resigned as Co-Treasurer, with Karen Tollefson named as Interim Co-Treasurer. Bonnie Curran made a motion to nominate Karen as Co-Treasurer. Helen Roller seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

--The 2011-2012 Budget (copy attached) was presented by Julie which requires re-approval by new Board Members. Liz reported that Sue Bailey has volunteered to be Father's Day Brunch Chair, requiring the event to be added to the budget with \$2000 expense and income. Karen moved to approve the 2011/12 Budget with the addition of the Father's Day Brunch line item. Jana Robertson seconded the motion. Budget with change was approved by all attendees.

--Julie identified proposed changes to the Standing Rules (copy attached). Debbie McCarson moved to approve them with those changes. The motion was seconded by Liz. Standing Rules were approved by consensus with changes noted.

Adjourn: The General Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.