

Kirkland Junior High PTSA 2010-2011
January 18, 2010
Kirkland Junior High Commons
General Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Julie called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. A sign in sheet is attached.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the October 10 meeting were approved by consensus with no changes.

Principal's Report: At the latest Faculty Meeting staff discussed new testing in Math that is required by Washington State. In addition to 7th & 8th grade MSP testing students taking CMP8 will take Algebra exam; students taking Geometry will take Geometry and Algebra; students taking Advanced Algebra will take Algebra and Geometry. This is the first time that new testing has been retroactive. Math Department will do some review with students. Students with Special Needs can opt out, similar to MSP.

-- Catch-Up Café is full of kids, making up work, getting extra help, working on CBA, starting homework because of afterschool activities.

-- Upcoming parent meetings for current 6th & 8th grade students. LWHS 9th grade parent night will be at KJH and Rose Hill Jr. due to construction.

--2011/2012 Course Registration will be online (first week of Feb.) to save time and money. A form will come home for parents to sign, then students register online at school; staff will check that students sign up for classes that their parents signed off on.

--Panther Pride topic: Anti-Bullying, ask your kids "What is a bystander? What should bystanders do?"

--2nd semester class schedule comes out Friday.

-- No decision from district about making up snow days, usually end of the year.

Reflections Video: viewing of Reflections submission of Chris M (8th grade).

Guest Speakers: Teachers Rachel Brotherton and Beau Hansen spoke about Writing Curriculum & Expectations at KJH: grade level expectations, major assignments, samples of rubrics, how you can help your student. Parents can view students' writing portfolios, hopefully these will stay with students through high school. This is the first year of this program.

Presidents' Report: Julie reminded attendees that all parents are welcome to attend LWPTSA Council meetings, next one is Feb. 3 at 9:30am. Book Drive extended for a week, benefits 2nd period classroom teachers. Updated Teacher Wish List handed out.

Council Report: Sarah reported that LWPTSA has 15,382 member – one of largest in state. LWPTSA Basket Auction goal \$5,500, raised \$6,917 for high school senior scholarships. Kirk Jr. Basket made \$230.

--LWSF has new grants program, grants due 2/25/11; help schools meet CIP, focus on measurable results; 1/24 grant workshop; 4/20 LWSF luncheon

--Dr. Kimball spoke at the last Council meeting about 9-12 reconfiguration. Current stage: defining academic and instructional program. They are almost at end of that stage and then more info will be

available to parents and community. More info re: levy & school reconfiguration at <http://www.lwsd.org/News/2011-Levy/Pages/default.aspx>.

Legislative Update: Meredith reported that Feb 8 is levy vote, district is growing more than projected particularly on the east side, mainly affecting high schools at this point because of planned reconfiguration. Meredith asked for volunteers to make phones for levy campaign, message will be a reminder to vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report is attached. Kathi reported that there wasn't much activity in December, main upcoming expenses will be programs. PTSA's supplemental grants being replaced by funding items from the Teachers' Wish List.

Committee Reports:

Communications: Therese reviewed how PTSA communicates with parents: directory, PantherPulse, PantherGram; new newsletter feature "I was wondering" and encouraged parents to send in their questions

Programs: *Drama* – play is underway, this Friday is deadline for paperwork and money, about 25 students so far – do we have critical mass to go forward? Play would ideally have 50 students. *Walk About* – have more volunteers than in past, but could always use more, Julie noted that this is one of the few opportunities for parents to volunteer in the school building during the school day.

Ways & Means: donation receipt letters going out this week; *Emergency Prep* – had a \$500 expense. *Staff Appreciation* – continuing monthly events. *Special Needs* – Marcia introduced Tess Jeske, the new Special Needs Liaison. Tess said that she is a parent as well as a para-educator, she has talked to Learning Center teachers to find out their needs to add to Teacher Wish List, because this program is new to the building they have no supplies (no budget for this). Ms. McC Carson gave some detail about the Learning Center. This is for kids who previously had to go to other junior highs due to their academic needs, having the Learning Center at KJH allows them to follow the same feeder patterns from elementary school as their friends, currently has 8 students, Malia West is the head teacher. Tess is looking into volunteers to be Reading Buddies for these kids.

Membership – Lina reported that KJH PTSA currently has 337 members, last year had 306 members. We were just awarded Silver Membership Award for increasing membership by 5% since Oct.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Election of Nominating Committee – The candidates are Lina Kramer, Jennifer Ross and Kerry Rowan with Beth Nahum and Maria Staff as alternates. Julie asked if there were any more volunteers from the floor. Sarah Stone make a motion to accept the slate as proposed. Marcia Baker seconded the motion. A verbal vote was conducted. The motion passed.

It was noted that LWHS PTSA is looking for 9th grade parents to their Board.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.