

SUMMARY – PTA General Membership Meeting
January 22, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The Minutes from the October 16th General Membership meeting were approved. The Treasurers reported a month begin balance of \$37,028.79 and month end balance of \$35,148.81. Income received this month was from membership dues, PACE fundraising and Math-in-Action.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Stephanie Sullivan, **International Night** event Chair, reported volunteers are still needed for the Feb. 6th event. Activities and crafts are planned to represent at least one country on each continent. Participants will have passports stamped at each activity table. **Blood Drive:** Chair Karen Hernan reported that sign-ups forms are available to donate blood. The Blood Drive will be Monday, February 9th from Noon – 6:00pm. Volunteers are needed. **Legislative Report:** Kathleen Reynolds reported on news from Olympia. She spoke about the new State Superintendent for Public Schools, Randy Dorn and his readiness to revamp the WASL., making it shorter, putting it online for speedy results, and making the test more diagnostic in order to show teachers what the child needs to know and what to work on. The new test is to be ready by Spring 2010. Kathleen also discussed the Basic Finance Taskforce and the goal to redefine public education. The new definition is to include more required class hours for high school students – a move from 5.0 to 6.0 hours /day. Another part of the definition is to make teacher salaries more competitive. There are 2 bills being proposed that will help move the State in that direction. There is no funding to support this new definition. Members should call or email their legislators to help urge support of the bills. Kathleen reminded members of Focus Day in Olympia on February 26th. A bus is being chartered from Bellevue. Interested participants should talk to Kathleen if they would like to go.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS: Myriam Pollock reported on the status of **Community Service** (Chair Alanna Taylor) activities -- the Kids Care Campaign was a success with the Holiday Food and Gift drive. 915 pounds of food and \$525 of new toys and clothes were collected prior to the holidays. Another 275 pounds of food and \$75 worth of clothing were collected the first week after the holidays. **Staff Appreciation** (chair Victoria Bigelis) -- meals and treats are provided monthly. A chili lunch is planned for this January. **Jump Rope for Heart** (Chair Felice Nightengale) will be held on February 11th from 1:30 – 3:30. This event raises money for the American Heart Association. Students may participate with or without a registration. Children who raise \$50 or more will be entered into a state-wide raffle for a Nintendo Wii. Barbara Koshar reported on the status of **Social Services/Events**. The **Pancake Breakfast** has been moved to February 21st from January 17th. **Family Fun Night**, called the “Beagle Boogie” will be held on March 13th.

Director of Communications: Valerie Dodge asked if members were accessing the website frequently, or at least weekly from the Bugle email, in order to gauge usage. She explained the calendar feature that enables members to see events district-wide. Using filters, one can see events by school or group. Anat Spilligner will be PTA webmaster next year and is helping to restructure the site navigation.

NEW BUSINESS

Co-President Vicki Krum reported that a **Nominating Committee** is needed to help position new Board members for the Fall is in the works, and proposed nominating committee members Kelli Egberg, Kristen Muscott, Debbie Wapstra. The nominating committee candidates were approved by the general membership.

Co-President Celia Kennedy received **two enrichment requests from Rockwell staff**. The first one was from music teacher Nancy McKay, in the amount of \$200 to pay for buses to transport 5th grade students to a Bellevue Philharmonic performance in March. The general membership approved the request. The second enrichment request was from the 6th grade teachers who have requested \$1,486.00 for the annual Knights Tour, an educational tradition at this grade level. The program includes teachings on medieval games, costuming, celebrations, crafts and activities. The general membership approved the request.

Co-President Celia Kennedy announced that Elizabeth Shipman resigned her Board position as **Director of Volunteers**. Both co-Presidents proposed that they cover the duties of this position for the remainder of the school year. The general membership approved this proposal.

Announcements: Co-President Vicki Krum announced that the school year has been extended to June 19th due to the snow closures in December. A report by the Nominating Committee will be made at the March 19 General Membership meeting. Membership chair Karen Hernan announced current membership of 296 members. Co-President Celia Kennedy thanked Karen for ongoing recruitment efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Summary compiled by Lisa Schildt, Secretary

Based on Minutes graciously provided by Valerie Dodge, Director of Communications