

**MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY
NORMAN ROCKWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA
General Membership Meeting
April 23, 2009**

Co-President Vicki Krum called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. A quorum was present. Minutes of the March 19, 2009, General Meeting Minutes were approved. Co-Treasurer Nobuko Hasegawa reported a beginning monthly balance of \$39,848.51 and a month end balance of \$41,559.14 for March 2009. She clarified for the membership that the statement reflects only activity posted in March.

Kathleen Reynolds, Legislative Advocate, shared news of the recent passing of education reform HB 2261 in the State Legislature, and thanked the members for their advocacy in helping to bring this to our lawmakers' attention via calls and emails. This bill will be fully implemented by 2018.

During the Vice Presidents reports, Julie Schare expressed thanks to all involved in last week's musical production, especially to Siri Bliesner. On behalf of VP Myriam Pollock, Vicki Krum announced that the annual Kid's Care campaign will be a New Toy Drive donation administered via Hopelink, with the support of Rockwell's Student Council. The collection will be held the second week of May. On behalf of VP Barbara Koshar, Vicki Krum announced that the annual Art Showcase / Ice Cream Social / Used Book Sale will be scaled back in comparison to previous years. Ice cream sundaes will sell for \$1.00/person. Teachers will add the toppings, with ice cream from Thenos Dairy. The Rockwell Choir will provide entertainment, performing in the atrium. Student art will be displayed in the hallways.

Principal Tina Livingston mentioned that Nancy McKay will be honored with a Redmond Arts Award at Redmond City Hall in June, with art work donated in her name.

During the Presidents' report, co-President Vicki Krum explained that at the March General Membership meeting, members approved a \$600 request for training tuition fees for second grade teacher Megan Porter to attend training at the Teacher College of Reading and Writing at Columbia University. However, since the school district announced a freeze on all out-of-state travel for training, the \$600 will be reinstated to the PTA budget as per the standard PTA grant agreement. Next, Vicki detailed a grant request from third grade teacher Colleen Smith to fund a third grade author visit. As background, Vicki explained that Ms. Smith noted the students' positive response to the book "But Not Quite" as read by librarian Diane Davenport. Based on student enthusiasm for the book, Ms. Smith contacted the author/illustrator, who agreed to visit the third grade. The cost for the author visit is \$150. Membership approved the request.

Debbie Ward introduced Rockwell's Animatronics Dog "Shilo" to the members. Cathy and Paul Dietz built Shilo using visual show animation software. Several students involved in last week's school musical production helped program speech text and coordinate the dog's movement using a joystick. The idea moving forward is to allow other students to learn how to do this, promoting interest in animatronics. Debbie requested a PTA grant of \$89 to purchase a school copy of the software to enable Shilo's continued use. She would like to involve other students by teaching them how to use the software – the specific number of students to be trained is not known. Her plan is to train older students first who could then help train younger students. The membership approved the grant request.

Vicki Krum presented the slate of Rockwell PTA officers for 2009-2010 as submitted by the Nominating Committee, for general membership vote. Candidates are: Co-Presidents - Celia Kennedy and Vicki Krum; Treasurer - Victoria Bigelis; Co-Secretaries - Kathleen Reynolds and Kristen Muscott; Vice President of Academic Enrichment - Jessica Hargin; Vice President of School Services - Tracey Gilman; Vice President of Social and Community Development - Stephanie Sullivan; Director of Communications - Tracy Brooks; Directory of Fundraising -

Minerva Butler. Nicole Hulett has accepted the position of Membership Chair. The membership approved the entire slate of officers as presented. The Legislative Advocate position remains open and needs to be filled.

Under new business, Rich Garcia spoke about the history of the PACE fundraiser and promoted the idea that PACE-generated income be designated to fund 6th grade outdoor education, which was the original intent when the program was first introduced at Rockwell. Since its inception, the PACE-generated income has gone into the PTA general fund. This year, Pace raised nearly \$2,000. Vicki Krum stated that this suggestion will be considered during budget discussion at the General Membership meeting in May.

Principal Tina Livingston led the members in a two-part math activity. Initially, members explored online parent math resources using Rockwell's computer lab. Secondly, members provided feedback in small groups regarding what members found helpful on the district website concerning math resources and what additional information members would find useful to assist students with mathematics. Tina will report collected feedback to the Math Adoption Committee. She showed the members how to track the math adoption process via a link from the district home page: LWSD.org> click on News> on the left side click on Elementary Math Adoption> in the center of the page click on Math Adoption Survey. She explained how the committee plans to proceed toward making their recommendations. By the school year 2010-2011, the new math curriculum will be adopted. Committee meeting minutes will be published in addition to all the resources used to support the final decision. Tina discussed the impact of the revised standards by the state. The district is seeking parent input through a twelve question online survey.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

This summary was prepared by Lisa Schildt, based on minutes recorded by Valerie Dodge. Many thanks to Valerie for filling in during Lisa's absence.