

**NORMAN ROCKWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**March 19, 2009**

**Call to order:** Co-President Celia Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present. .

**Meeting Minutes:** Kathleen Reynolds moved that the January 22, 2009, General Meeting Minutes be approved. Jessica Hargin seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

**Principal's Report:** Tina Livingston reported on the following:

- During an all-day elementary principals' retreat, LWSD Superintendent Chip Kimball discussed new school configurations (K-5; 6-8; 9-12) and the potential time frame for implementing this change. The change could go into effect approximately four years from the time approved. He hopes for a February, 2010, bond approval by voters.
- State revenue forecasts estimate an \$8 to \$12 million reduction in public education funding. Most heavily affected will be programs not guaranteed under the current definition of Basic Education or through specifically dedicated funding (which cannot be reallocated). These programs include lowering class size in K-4, Safety Net, professional development for teachers, and some preschool programs. Ways to meet the budget cuts are under evaluation.
- During LWSD negotiation of teacher contracts, teachers negotiated to change how teachers report to parents. Next year (2009-2010) the change goes into effect. The new configuration will include (a) a goal setting conference in October that includes the parents, teacher, and student. No report card will have been issued for this conference; (b) the first report card will be issued at the end of January, with a conference scheduled; and (c) an end-of-year June report card.
- Communication Tools: A LWSD task force has been established to consider how to best keep parents informed. The online WebGrader software is not designed to work at the elementary level, so is not a solution for use in the elementary grades.

**Treasurer's Report:** Co-Treasurer Nobuko Hasegawa reported a beginning monthly balance of \$30,201.23, and a month end balance of \$39,848.51 for February, 2009. The PTAs fundraising goal for the year has been achieved. The Family Fun Night dance had a profit of \$993.

**Vice Presidents Reports:**

*Barbara Koshar* expressed thanks to the Pancake Breakfast committee and the Family Fun Night committee.

*Julie Schare* expressed appreciation for the work and commitment of **Tim Nightengale** for the Salmon in the Classroom program. **Elly Sarwono**, Math in Action, is looking for a volunteer to help with the Math in Action online activity. Julie said she wants feedback from parents of students in the Art for Kids program. Julie expressed thanks to **Stephanie Sullivan** for a successful International Night.

**Co-Presidents' Report:**

Capital Requests:

- Nancy McKay requested that funds originally granted to pay for the fifth grade to go to the Bellevue Philharmonic be re-allocated to pay for general choir concert transportation in 2009. The Bellevue Philharmonic program was cancelled. Rich Garcia moved that the funds be

reallocated to provide choir transportation. Tracy Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- Michael Corroone requested \$150 to pay for bus transportation for the fourth grade Salmon in the Classroom field trip to release the salmon. Siri Bliesner moved that \$150 be allocated to provide salmon release field trip transportation. Rich Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- In June, 2008, Diane Davenport, school librarian, requested \$3,875 for book purchase. Since then, due to reduced availability of books, she has amended her request to \$2,000. She plans to purchase primarily non-fiction books to support the curriculum. Jessica Hargin moved that \$2,000 be allocated to the library for book purchase. Rich Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Second grade teacher Megan Porter requested \$600 to help pay for costs associated with attending training at the Teacher College of Reading and Writing at Columbia University. Tuition for the program is \$600. Other costs will include airfare, housing, and food. After discussion, Joanne Bily moved that \$600 be allocated to Megan Porter to attend this program. Stephanie Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Rathan Mahendran requested PTA funds be allocated to help pay for costs of the sixth grade Outdoor Education program. The Board's recommendation was to allocate \$2,000 (approximately \$30 per student) to help defray student costs. The remainder of the cost will be funded through student fundraising through the school's Ecology run, and through parents paying the balance. Rich Garcia moved that \$2,000 be allocated to the sixth grade Outdoor Education program. Siri Bliesner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee, consisting of Debbie Wapstra, Kelli Egberg, and Kristen Muscott, submitted the following candidates to serve Norman Rockwell PTA for the 2009-2010 term, beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010.

Co-Presidents:	Celia Kennedy and Vicki Krum
Treasurer:	Victoria Bigelis
Secretary:	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
Director of Fundraising:	Minerva Butler

Celia Kennedy reported that the Legislative Advocate and the Membership Chair are both presidential appointments. The office of Director of Volunteers does not have a candidate, pending further clarification by the Board of the role of Director of Volunteers. There were no further nominations from the floor. Elections will be held at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> General Membership Meeting. Kristen Muscott moved that the candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee be accepted. Kelli Egberg seconded the motion. The slate of candidates was accepted.

### **New Business**

First Lego League Robotics Program: Siri Bliesner explained the program and financial details that would be associated with Rockwell PTA sponsoring one or more teams of 10 students each. Ages 9 to 14 are permitted to participate. For the initial year of Rockwell's participation, Siri suggested including students in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Each year, teams compete in a Challenge, working as a

team to research the theme and provide a robotic solution to the challenge. Cathy Dietz and Siri would like to help start at least one team of Rockwell students. Siri suggested that the next step be to determine interest among Rockwell students. She also would welcome knowing of parents who want to participate to guide teams. If the General Membership is favorable to this suggested program, Siri will place a notice in the Beagle Bugle to determine interest, and will report at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> General Membership Meeting about the level of interest. After discussion, the general membership feedback was positive about the next step of determining interest. Further discussion will be needed on potential PTA allocation of funds, selection of participants, cost per participant, and additional details.

### **Old Business**

International Night – Stephanie Sullivan, Chair for International Night, recommended that a minimal entrance fee be established if the program is continued in subsequent years. She suggested a fee of twenty-five to fifty cents per participant. Discussion will be postponed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Schildt  
Secretary 2008-2009