

Mark Twain PTSA
General Membership Meeting
Minutes for September 22, 2011

The meeting took place at Mark Twain. Amy Maher called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Agenda Item 1: Update and Q & A with Rick Burden, school principal

- Twain has 650 students this year, which presents space challenges
 - Eliminated computer lab room
 - Added a 4th lunch session
 - Class sizes in primary grades increased, about one student per class grades K-2.
 - Did not lose any staff
 - Kept all kindergarten students from neighborhood at Twain; no overflow
- Have some new staff
 - Pyllis Dramer, Safety Net Services
 - Majorie Barbolidars, Special Education Teacher
 - Tina Hickox, Counselor
 - Loy Wilcox, Half-time Kindergarten teacher
- Switched recess so it comes before lunch based on studies showing its better for kids health and behavior
- Switched around computer set-up
 - New to District is a Netbook program
 - School has 32 NetBook computer for each grade, allowing teachers to integrate technology into the classroom
- State budget cuts are causing the increase in class size, decrease in classified staff

Question & Answer Session

Mr. Burden fielded questions from the attendees. The topics discussed included: the capacity of the school, the overflow of students to other schools, the departure of superintendent Chip Kimball, the relationship of the community to the school board, how moving the 6th grade to the middle school will affect the population of the school, last year's MSP scores, the emotional impact of the MSP on some students, what avenues parents can use to raise concerns about testing, and the way Mark Twain—the author—is incorporated into the school's curriculum.

Amy Maher stepped in to introduce Deanna Gantar, this year's PTSA Legislative Chair and encouraged the parents to take the PTSA Legislative survey.

Amy also announced that Mr. Burden will be available at future PTSA General Membership meetings. The next one is January 19, 2012 from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Item 2: June 2011 General Membership Meeting Minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 3: August 2011 Treasurer Report was filed for audit.

Agenda Item 4: New Business

- **Budget change proposals (Liz Fulton)**
 - Proposed 2011-12 budget presented. See attached.
 - Julie Tribolet made a motion to approve the changes as presented; Lynn Mizulo seconded
 - Discussion
 - Liz explained that the spring budget was put in place to cover the summer spending, but inevitably some changes occur.
 - Bobcat buying is new and they've estimated the income for that item.
 - Julie explained the Scrip gifts cards and that the PTSA makes money by receiving a percentage of the value of the gift card. Last year, families had to sign up individually and the funds were taken directly out of their checking or savings accounts. This year, she's developed a new system to make it easier to purchase the cards. Families may purchase gift cards from the PTSA instead of from Scrip. She explained that this will also be an easy way to contribute gift cards to families in need. Because payments go to the PTSA, the donations are eligible for corporate matching donations.
 - Amy Maher called for a vote and the budget. **Zero opposed; motion carries**
- **Nominating Committee for 2011-2012 (Amy Maher)**
 - The nominating committee finds people interested in serving on the PTSA Board of Directors for the next year. The committee needs a minimum of three people. It helps to elect the committee early in the year so that they have plenty of time to recruit.
 - Coco Fulton nominated Liz Fulton
 - Lynn Mizulo nominated Dana Neilson
 - Liz Fulton nominated Vlasta Hilger (in absentia)
 - All nominees accepted (Vlasta accepted via phone with Amy)
 - Laura Bartoelli made a motion to accept the nominations; Tamar Hefets seconded. **Zero opposed; motion carries.**
- **2011-12 Standing Rules Approval (Amy Maher)**
 - Proposed Standing Rules changes were presented that included the following:
 - Item 6 – An increase to the national and state membership service fee for a total National/State/Council service fee of \$9.00.
 - Item 36 – The PTSA will comply with the training requirements necessary to remain in good standing with the WSPTA.
 - Audience Question: What kind of training?
 - Answer (Amy Maher): Various types offered throughout the year. Some are specific to board position, like Secretary or Treasurer. A group of board members plan on attending a PTA and the Law training in October.

Liz Fulton made motion to accept the changes to the 2011-12 Standing Rules; second by Deana Gantar; Tamar Hefets seconded. **Zero opposed; motion carries.**
- **Computer Donation (Amy Maher)**
 - The PTSA owns a desktop computer that had been used for student banking and other PTSA programs. The PTSA no longer needs the computer and would like to donate the computer and printer to Rick Burden for him to pass along to someone who needs it.

- Coco Fulton made a motion that the computer be donated to Rick Burden. Bilquis seconded. **Zero opposed; motion carries.**

VP Highlights:

- **Co-Vice Presidents 1**
 - Coco Fulton
 - Walk to school week is October 10 -14
 - Reduces need for parking, kids get exercise and a chance to prizes
 - Need volunteers who have about an hour in the morning
 - Lynn Mizulo
 - Book Fair is coming October 3, 4, 5, and 6.
 - Raised \$11,000 last year to buy books for the school
 - Will collect change for needy kids at Twain; goes to school counselor.
 - Tuesday night is family night, featuring prizes and popcorn
- **Co-Vice Presidents 2:**
 - Bilquis Gulam
 - Staff Appreciation is a way to show support for Twain staff and teachers.
 - Sara Kruse and Cathy Schwartz are the chairs
 - Dana Neilson
 - After School Programs
 - Lego Engineering program still has space. Six have signed up; need 15 to have the class
 - Chess needs more enrollees. Fridays from 3:05-4:15
 - Jump Rope and Art class are full
- **Co-Vice Presidents 3:**
 - Laura Bartoletti
 - Explore Art (a VP 1 Committee of which Laura is chair)
 - Docent Training will be Monday, September 26.
 - Art Walk happens on June 6
 - Have an additional extra \$500 in budget over past years
 - End-of-year Celebrations
 - Two grades are graduating this year—the 5th and 6th graders—so there will be separate celebrations for each grade.
 - Look for fund-raising concessions at school events and help the kids raise money for their graduations.
 - Tamar Hefets
 - Student Directory is in progress
 - Collecting art from students, one from each class will be chosen.
 - There will be a table at recess for kids to submit their art.
- **Treasurer**
 - Liz Fulton
 - Will reimburse committee members for their expenses
 - Save receipts, use a transaction voucher
- **Communications**

- Tammy Gilliam
 - She has emailed five Bobcat Blurbs
 - Have highlights of the coming week and a link to the tandem calendar, where you can find forms, information, and rules about events
- Bobcat News comes out on Wednesdays once a month
- Fundraising
 - Julie Tribolet
 - Collected \$6,100 from pass the hat and money continues to trickle in.
 - Goal is \$6,400.
- Legislative Chair: Deanna Gantar
 - She is new to position and excited about receiving training
 - Next month, Deanna attend the legislative assembly to vote on special issues
 - Urged everyone to take the WAPTA survey to let them know what issues are important to you
 - Urged anyone interested in helping to volunteer
- Volunteer Coordinator: Teri Colbert
 - Volunteer Coordinator is a new position this year
 - Teri is the go-to person for the committee chairs to find volunteers
 - Received 115 volunteer forms, about 25% of the families from Mark Twain
 - Volunteers will give one free child admission for the event worked and Yearbook volunteers get a free yearbook

Closing (Amy Maher)

She thanked the volunteers for their work and effort. Asked for any other announcements

Gary Runstadler, the PTSA photo historian, announced that he had extra prints available for taking on the back table.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04p.m.

The next PTSA General Membership meeting is January 19, 2012, from 8:30 to 9:00 A.M. in the cafeteria.