

**BURNS PARK PTO  
General Meeting  
October 15, 2015**

Executive Board Members Present: Molly Crankshaw, Diana Ellis, Dan Hamalainen, Brian Hayden Lauren Kinsharf, Helen Levy, Sylvia Marino, Jen Monk-Reising, Jane Montas, Jo Lynn Montgomery, John Pottow, Marie Todd, Jill Schloff

Staff Present: Chuck Hatt

Others Present: Jeremiah Johnson, Mitra Noroozian, Zach Del Proposto, Tamanika Steward

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

**1. Review of Minutes**

- a. Sylvia Marino moved to approve minutes, as amended w/Lauren taken off attendee list
- b. Jill Schloff second
- c. Unanimously approved

**2. President's Report**

- a. Fall festival was a huge success
- b. Fifth grade fundraising efforts have been kicked off
- c. Ribbon cutting ceremony for the playground was successful
- d. Walk & Talk is up and running
- e. Movie night had record attendance
- f. Annual fund promotion has begun
- g. Distributed the directories – thanks to Sylvia & Dave
- h. Chuck will order the 9 additional Chrome Books for 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- i. Halloween parade will happen starting at 3:15pm
- j. We need to do a Halloween costume drive to help kids who don't have them. It's just a matter of putting a basket out in front of the office, really.
- k. Field Trip Budget:
- l. We're going to publicize the Golden Apple funds so more teachers go for them.

**3. Treasurer's Report – Dan Hamalainen**

- a. Burn's Park Run has a positive carry-over balance because of a late collection of funds from last year.
- b. Classroom subsidies are coming in, so it seems like all the teachers are aware of those funds.
- c. Camp has negative expenses because funds are collected, in the bank, and ready to offset expenses when they come in.
- d. Dan asked if anyone has questions and nobody had any questions.

**4. Golden Apple Grants – Lauren Kinsherf**

- i. \$157 from Sandy Kreger for play costumes. Dan Hamalainen moves to approve, Helen Levy seconds, unanimously approved.
- ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade wants to take a trip for \$608 to the farm. Since the field trip budget is set in advance, there's no extra money, so that's why this is coming in as a Golden Apple. The group debated whether field trips should be allowed. Helen Levy moved to approve, Jill Schloff second, unanimously approved.

**5. New Playground – Jen Monk-Reising**

- a. We need trash cans! Chuck submitted a work order for this. Tailgaters left the place a mess, and there's tons of broken glass. Jen suggests that we put up some signs to remind people that Burns Park is a school. Chuck is going to call the police dispatch and ask them to send a regular patrol on game days. Chuck will work on getting signs. To be continued...

**6. Chair Updates**

- a. Fundraising – Jenn Monk-Reising
  - i. Annual fund goal is going up to \$10k.
  - ii. Auction: teacher participation is at 100% again. Crazy. The stuff that's coming in is unique and everything is looking great. Grange is almost full. The auction is all paypal or credit card – no checks this year.
  - iii. Burns Park Run. Kathy Brosnowski is doing a great job. Probability is probably going to come in at \$5k in sponsorship again. The total sponsorship goal is \$11k
- b. Volunteer – Jo Lynn Montgomery
  - i. Lunches with Love – no chair! Jill Schloff says it will take 3-4 passionate chairs to really take this on. You have to go pick up the food on Monday, get it into school, then make lunches on Tuesday and go deliver.
  - ii. Special Interest Fair – no chair!
  - iii. All of the classroom volunteer slots have been filled.
- c. Books – Sylvia Marino
  - i. Teachers have asked for money to refresh their book supplies. Is this something we want to fund in the future? Molly Crankshaw said she funds this through her \$550 classroom stipend. Chuck: 15 years ago the district purchased libraries for every 3,4,5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. Many of those libraries are in tatters, and the upkeep has been very uneven. Pottow: I suggest we need a centralized process for restocking libraries. Hatt: I agree. Monk-Reising: I like the wish list idea. Hatt: Consistency is key. All: the district should pay to refresh all the libraries! Hatt: Agree, but not sure that will happen. This shouldn't be idiosyncratic and based on teacher requests – it should reflect the collective wisdom and be consistently applied across all classrooms. Chuck will convene a committee to design a template.

## 7. **Principal's Report**

- a. We're getting a new boiler! It's going to cost \$435,000.
- b. We continue to be grateful for Mr. Jackson and we have to fight daily to keep him. Chuck is offering him funds to take his team out to dinner. Montas: are there ways the parents can apply pressure to the district? Hatt: The contractor is working on it.
- c. Busses are arriving promptly this week! We have an adult monitor on one of the challenging buses, which is great.
- d. World Language Initiative – there was a meeting among the coordinators and instructors and board members. \$5,280 of \$20,000 fund raising so far.
- e. Thank you to all of the lunch volunteers. Hired two parents.
- f. We have a substitute teacher shortage. If we can get the bill passed to allow retired teachers to sub, that would be great.
- g. There is also legislation winding it's way through that says if you can't pass the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading test, you get held back. This would not be positive.
- h. Kelly Maguire, the speech teacher, is really ill. We're organizing a meal program to help her.
- i. Computers are making a big difference in the classroom.
- j. We brought in a district trainer to help set up Everyday Math curriculum. Volunteers are setting up Khan Academy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Hayden