

Peter Hobart PTAO Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 13, 2007
7:00 – 8:30 pm

❖ **WELCOME**

- ❖ Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

❖ **MINUTES APPROVAL – SEPT. '07**

Lisa MacIntyre motioned to approve the minutes

Renee Salazar seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

❖ **FALL EVENTS**

- **Read-a-thon** – Chairs: Susan McLachlan & Ann Kjaer
 - Thanks to the volunteers for helping. With corporate matches we made just over \$32,000 and they read 12,379 books. Postcards will go out to the people who contributed \$100 or more per family. Suggestion was made to provide postcards (fill in the blank format) to kids that they could use to write thank you notes to their family and friends who contributed.
- **Book Fair** – Chairs: Jill Riley & Kim Carden.
 - Total gross was \$6580. From that, \$1400 went directly to books, which will be used for the library, for the “Read a Book, Win a Book” and for the school’s book give away stash.
- **Family Fun Night** – Chairs: Jane Steck & Kelley Christianson
 - Thanks to everyone who helped and every who attended. We had record attendance (more than 700 people). Thanks to Pirate Frank Johnson, and Mayor Jeff Jacobs and his son, who handled popcorn. The co-chairs are considering ideas for next year and are looking for input for people. Park Tavern donated many of the pizzas, so we paid only \$65 for about 100 pizzas! Trader Joes and Cub Foods donated fruits and vegetables to go with the dinner.
- **Volunteer List** – Jane Steck
 - New this year is a volunteer list. The event chair sends the volunteer need to the list coordinator. The list coordinator sends an email to everyone on the list. Then, those who are interested contact the even chair directly for details. We have 99 people on our volunteer all-call list (email) and five on the list to be called, rather than emailed. The all-call list will be sent out again in January, to give parents another chance to get on the volunteer list.

❖ **WINTER EVENTS**

- **Artist-in-Residence** – Chairs: Steph Lund & Julia Fredrickson
 - Groups will meet with Tim Hasenstein, our artist, this month. The residence will start the second week after the holiday break.
- **Kindergarten Info. Night** – Chairs: Mary Campbell & Julie Salamzadeh
 - Tuesday, January 29th at 7pm. This is the event when we need parent volunteers to be at the school. The chairs are also looking for input on how to improve the event. Julie Huber mentioned that it is very important to have parents at the information night who can speak with other parents. We want visitors to be able to get information on why this is a great community. She urged everyone to mark that night on the calendar. She also mentioned that it’s great if Dads will show up, too. PSI’s Information Night is Jan 17th and Jan 10th is the general kindergarten information meeting.
- **Student Directory** – Julia Fredrickson
 - The data is together on a disk. As soon as it can be formatted, directories will be printed.

❖ **FINANCIAL REPORT**

- **2006 – 2007 Budget re-forecast** – Treasurer: Lisa Heitzinger
 - Art lessons, field trips and Westwood Nature Center budget amounts have increased due to increased enrollment this year. Also, we made more money in the Read-a-thon than budgeted and also made a small amount from t-shirts, when that is normally a break-even.
 - Kim Aune, made a motion to approve the revised budget; Amy McTavish seconded. The budget passed unanimously.

❖ **PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

- Thank you for an amazing Read-a-Thon and all it gives to our school (field trips and events). The circus assembly was really cool. Thank you for a great Family Fun Night and an amazing book fair.
- We have a candidate for an amity aid to be at our school, and we need a home. 26 yr old college student from Columbia, likes to cook and play basketball. He likes music and likes to travel. He’s studying

environmental engineering. We're going to suggest he comes after Jan 1st and stay in the same home until June. If you know anyone who is interested in hosting him, let me know.

- We had our IB consultant here from Colorado a few weeks ago and made his report to the main office. He was very complimentary of the staff and students and encouraged us on the journey.
- We have finished updating our emergency action plan (an annual undertaking). The latest section added is a section on what to do if/when the pandemic hits. As a result of this report, there will be some project finished. Such as comprehensive PA systems that can be heard everywhere in a building. Also moving toward a front door that would work by doorbell (would be locked until opened).
- This week we had our first administrative brainstorm regarding how to cut \$1,000,000 from SLP budget for next year. The legislature approved a one percent increase for next year, and that won't sustain the organization costs that rise with inflation, making cuts necessary.
- Peter Hobart had a rough energy quarter (June/July/Aug). We used three percent more energy than last year in those months (probably due to summer school). We have saved 10 percent for the year. The computer lab is close to starting up, and should be ready next week. That means we won't have to close the library when we do standardized testing.
- The roses are still blooming in front (about half of them!) and a hundred red tulips have been planted.

❖ **SPEAKERS**

Sam Fredrickson, IB Coordinator

Senorita Rocio, Spanish Teacher

❖ IB Fall Parent Forum

- Spanish (Senorita Rocio Villazon)

- She is from Mexico City and has been teaching for 18 years. She was an amity intern from 1998-2001 and was at Peter Hobart. She has developed a curriculum. The IB units will be integrated into the Spanish starting next year, since the kids need the basics first. All grades are working on basics this year. The Spanish class is taught 100% in Spanish. No English is spoken. She does everything possible for them to understand. Some kids don't get it right away, but they will eventually. Kindergarten and First grade we expect listening and speaking this first year. In second grade, they will use listening, speaking and reading/writing limited vocabulary. In third grade, they will be expected to do listening, speaking, reading and writing. The classes are taught using songs and games. Exercises are sent home about once a month. Please review them with your child when they come home. The classes are 30 min 3/wk (except kindergarten is 2x/wk). Right now it is 2x/wk, but when the amity comes, he will teach the 3rd class per week. She showed a video that she took of some of her classes.

- Inquiry Based Instruction

- Inquiry is a change from thematic based instruction. It's a move from "teaching crayfish" (a concept) to "teaching the structure of living organisms" (a theme). He recommended books on inquiry based teaching, such as "Developing More Curious Minds." One thing teachers learned at a training course is the O-T-Q method (observe, think, questions) and they are implementing this in the classrooms. He did an exercise with us to separate observing, thinking and questioning.

- Status Update

- We are a candidate IB school. The site visit this fall was by Les Olsen. He said in his report that "the staff is to be commended for their recognition of the positive student learning change." "for instilling a learning climate in the student learning community that values the worth of learning." He observed that the students seem to feel safe in taking learning risks at the school. He made several recommendations to the school and the district, which will be follow up with a progress report. He said we could try application B this year, but the district plans to wait until Spring 2009. That would be followed by an authorization visit in Fall 2009. He said the school is far beyond the point where schools normally are in this process after this amount of time.

- Questions

- Question – what if one school is ready and another is not. Answer: Each school is a unique site, so there is the potential that schools could be authorized at different times. However, IB coordinators are collaborating closely to try to ensure all schools are authorized at the same time. Aquila, Peter Hobart, Susan Lindgren and Cedar Manor are all in this process.

- Question: how will the Spanish program integrate long term? Answer (from Rocio): Yes, whatever is covered here up the third grade, will continue in the higher grades. She is coordinating with Spanish teachers at other schools.

- Question: is there district wide commitment to this, despite the budget cuts needed? Answer (Sam): the district is committed to this from a program standpoint. (Frank): the district equity committee has been told two things are hands off: IB and PSI. This district is interested in promoting IB as much as they promote PSI.

- Question: during information night, we can't promote ourselves as an IB school, but can we talk about the IB program and where our school is on that path.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm