

## MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER CLUB

### MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2011 MEETING

**ATTENDANCE:** Kristin Smith, Ken Gilbert, John Byrne, Christi Clark, Cheryl French, Ryan Graham, Kelly Bussard, Julie Rossback

**PREMEETING:** The premeeting began with informal discussion at 6:10 with Principal Ken Gilbert regarding next year's finances and after school activities. He said that much remains uncertain because not all the pieces of the financial situation have been put into place. It is most likely that there will be less money available for after school activities although Mr. Gilbert indicated that most of the teachers and staff who oversee after school activities do so on a volunteer basis. (He is currently seeking a volunteer to oversee a lego robotics program in the building next fall for there has been interest in lego robotics as an additional after school activity.)

In a separate area, Mr. Gilbert said that the School District administration will not hold a meeting at Memorial to discuss financial matters. Such discussions are ongoing at the schools directly threatened with closure. Finally he stated that while some more school days may be cut out, **there is no chance Memorial will be put on a four day per week schedule in the 2011-2012 school year** barring some unforeseen financial disaster.

**The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.**

#### MINUTES:

The minutes of the January, 2011 meeting were made available in printed form. They are also on the school's website. It was **m/s/p** that the minutes be accepted as written.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

There were no financial transactions during January so the balance available to the PTC remains \$1240.21,

It was **m/s/p** that the report of Treasurer Christi Clark be accepted.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

**Christmas Shopping Event:** Ryan Graham, who oversaw the Christmas Shopping event with six volunteer chaperones, reported that the event was a great success and that the students and the students families greatly appreciated it. In all, roughly \$900 (\$750 of PTC allocated money) was made available for those selected to participate for family gifts and a small amount for lunch at the mall. The participants were careful and thoughtful shoppers. A thank you card with many long statements was presented to the PTC and shared by everyone at the meeting.

**McTakeover: NEW SCHEDULE – APRIL 4:** The McTakeover is a fundraiser where parent volunteers assist at the McDonalds closest to Memorial and a portion of the proceeds collected during the designated time go to the PTC. **The fund raiser has been rescheduled to the first Monday in April, April 4, 2011.** The change was caused by an overlooked event at McDonalds. President Smith will work out details with the McDonalds' management. The event generally goes from 4:30 – 7:30. The PTC gets a portion of the revenue generated during that time. **Parents can volunteer to assist and are encouraged to eat at the McDonalds' near Memorial at that time.**

**Mural Project:** The School District has approved the idea of a mural project for one of the northside walls of the school. Cheryl French will seek student volunteers and oversee the project beginning in April. The PTC previously allocated up to \$200 for necessary supplies.

**Track Meet/ Fund-Raising:** Without directly saying “no”, the District office strongly discouraged the School and PTC from proceeding with a track meet fundraiser. There were insurance concerns about opening the District facilities to non-students and concerns about potential conflicts with other schools which are considering hosting track meets to make up for the loss of the track program in the budget cuts.

The idea of an alternate fund raiser, primarily a jogathon, was discussed. Mr. Gilbert expressed a concern that it was a difficult time to add a fund raiser and that there was already a lot of fund raising activity going on. A consensus developed to let the matter drop at this time. At the same time, there was a renewed request to Mr. Gilbert that he develop a list of all the school year fund raising activities with the ultimate idea of trying to coordinate them.

**Penny War:** In the previous meeting, the PTC had agreed not to run its traditional “penny war” because of a potential of conflict with a penny drive started by the Leadership students. (The school agreed to pay directly for a bounce activity during the field day at the end of the school year because the penny war money used to go for that.) The Leadership students ran their campaign aimed at fighting disease and they raised around \$900.00 with the Sixth Grade contributing the most.

**After School Activities:** There was further discussion of the impending budget cuts and their impact on the school's ability to provide stipends for after school activities. Mr. Gilbert said that most of the activities were currently run by teacher and/or staff volunteers and stipends were only provided to two or three of the programs with the greatest out-of-pocket expense element such as theater and music. While the exact impact of the projected budget cuts and the stress they are likely to impose cannot be foreseen, he believed that the teachers and staff remained willing to volunteer time in the forthcoming school year. There was also discussion of trying to involve more parents and community members under the supervision of teachers and staff but no specific proposal was made.

**Haiku Contest:** Students have until February 18, 2011 to turn in original haiku for the First Annual Memorial Haiku contest (with cash prizes). Charles Dallmann, an award winning poet and beekeeper living in Alsea, has agreed to judge the entries once they are collected.

**Academic Awards:** An evening awards ceremony will be arranged for the students in all grades who were high achievers in the first portion of the school year. Their families will be notified and invited to attend. It was hoped that the ceremony could be scheduled for early February but a problem with the computer records of the grades has forced a postponement. The time, place, and date of the event should be announced shortly.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Sign:** Mr. Gilbert was asked to ask Ms. McNulty if the date and time of the PTC meetings could be posted on the reader board in front of the school about a week before each meeting. Mr. Gilbert noted that there are limitations imposed by space and the store of letters that the school possesses but he would pursue the matter.

**PTO Today Material:** President Smith reported that the school PTC had won a random drawing for material supplied by PTO Today. Mr. Graham was asked to sort through the material and suggest how best it could be utilized.

**THE FORMAL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:35 p.m.**

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PTC IS SCHEDULED FOR 6:00 P.M., TUESDAY,  
MARCH 1, 2011 IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA.**

## **UNOFFICIAL AFTER ADJOURNMENT DISCUSSION:**

**Site Council:** Mr. Gilbert suggested that a report from the Site Council be made a regular part of the PTC meetings. He went on to say that the Site Council had discussed whether or not the lunch periods should be flipped. Currently, the 6th graders are assigned to first lunch, the 8th graders to second, and the 7th graders are split between the two. Mr. Gilbert said an informal survey gave him the sense that the idea of flipping was not preferred by most students and so no changes were made.

The Site Council also discussed redoing the regular schedule to replace the elective periods with a period to be used for enrichment for those current in their work and intervention for those who may need special attention. That proposal has been revised to keep the electives periods and add an additional period for enrichment and intervention. The current idea is to reduce the regularly scheduled periods to 45 minutes each. That would create time for an additional period of 30 minutes that would be used for the enrichment and the intervention programs.

In a previous meeting, the Site Council discussed changing over to Standards Based Grading as is now done at Timber Ridge School. The discussion will continue.

**Worthy of Special Note:** The Memorial Jazz Band was in a multi-school jazz event sponsored by North Albany Middle School during the weekend of January 29/30 and performed very well. The Science Bowl team also competed that same weekend in Portland and did very well.

**THE MEETING'S UNOFFICIAL CONTINUATION ADJOURNED AT 7:50 p.m.**

