

MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER CLUB
MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2012 MEETING

SPECIAL NOTE: MULTICULTURAL NIGHT, A PTC EVENT CELEBRATING THE MANY CULTURES THAT MAKE UP OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY, IS BEING HELD AT THE SCHOOL ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 FROM 6 TO 8. IT WILL FEATURE FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT, DISPLAYS AND WORKSHOPS. DETAILS BELOW. IT SHOULD BE A FUN EVENT.

ATTENDANCE: Devan LaCoursiere, John Byrne, Ken Gilbert, Dawn Manning, Heidi Wiest, Eric Bryant, Nandini Kumar, Valerie Coomes, Ryan Graham, Suzanne K. Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:00.

STUDENT REPORT

Timberlyn DeRose, a Sixth Grade student at Memorial, gave a slide and lecture presentation about her summer, 2011 trip as part of the People to People Student Ambassador program. She and roughly 40 5th and 6th graders from various parts of the United States travelled through Western Canada meeting other students and going to places of interest in Alberta and British Columbia. Her talk was well received. She intends to take a similar trip this coming summer to France and England.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Academic Awards: The principal, Ken Gilbert, reported that the Academic Award ceremony held Thursday, February 2 was a great success. The ceremony honored 112 students who had average of 3.8 or above. The event was held in the gym which was barely large enough to accommodate the crowd of students, parents, and interested parties.

Bear Time: For the first two weeks of the new semester, there have been only enrichment activities during Bear Time. A new round of intervention classes was scheduled to begin February 7. This semester, intervention will be expanded to cover Science and Social Studies as well as Math and Language Arts. Students who have D or F grades will be directed to intervention. That is also a change – in the previous semester, intervention was limited to those with F's. The school has also acquired a

Google App for Education which will help speed communication and the sharing of information among teachers and staff.

All Star Honors and Optimist Awards: Three Memorial students will be honored in an upcoming School Board meeting for their time and dedication to volunteer work inside and outside of the school. The students will be notified personally shortly. In addition, 8th grade teachers will be selecting three Memorial 8th graders to be honored by the Optimist Club Youth Appreciation Program

Christmas Shopping Trip: Ryan Graham reported that the Christmas Shopping trip was a rousing success. He shared pictures from the event and related activities (including Mr. Gilbert as Santa Claus.) Twelve youngsters were escorted by 6 chaperones during a shopping excursion to Woodburn to buy family presents. The presents were wrapped later at the school. The event is funded in large part by the PTC to help those who might not otherwise be able to purchase family gifts. The school also gets other donations. The total cost was about \$1,000 of which \$750 came from the PTC.

Lunch Buddies: Mr. Graham was asked about the status of the Lunch Buddies program. He said that the program is going strong with a regular complement of 6 to 7 adults who team up with students for lunch in the cafeteria. The financial records indicate that the money allocated by the PTC to help with this program has not yet been removed from the PTC account but will, most likely, be removed in the future. **(NOTE: It was subsequently reported that this understanding was erroneous. \$100 has already been moved from the account for this activity. It is not certain that the remaining allocated sum will be needed and, in the meantime, it remains in the PTC account.)**

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Minutes: The minutes of the January, 2012 Memorial PTC meeting were made available for those in attendance. It was **m/s/p** that the minutes be accepted as written.

Financial Report: The financial status of the PTC did not change from the previous meeting. There is a balance of \$1,308.90 subject to allocations previously made (Lunch Buddies and Multi-Cultural Night) and those made subsequently in the February meeting (Drama and PTC Cancer Survivor Event). It was **m/s/p** that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

Multi-Cultural Night: Cheryl French provided a written status report on the planning for Multi-Cultural Night, Thursday, February 23 (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.) at the school. The events will be in the cafeteria and in rooms around the building. Admission

to the exhibits and workshops will be free but a wide variety of food will be available at \$5 per person (adult), \$3 per student, or \$15 per family. The night will feature food, exhibits, work shops, and music and performances from many of the cultures that make up our community. So far, parents, teachers and local restaurants have volunteered food from Korea, Mexico, Australia, India, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Hawaii, China, Italy, and Texas. Many people have volunteered items for displays and more will be secured from the Multicultural Literacy Program in Corvallis. There will be workshops involving dancing, food preparation, the use of chop sticks, Asia-based martial arts and yoga. The performances will include traditional dance from Hawaii, choral works, guitar and/or banjo works, and dancing. The planning goes on. Local restaurants have been asked to contribute specialties and efforts are being made to identify more potential exhibits. The evening will also have games and interactive activities. Anyone wishing to make suggestions and/or help out should contact Cheryl French (ballardcjs@hotmail.com).

Staff Appreciation Luncheon: The planning continues for this event in May. The luncheon will be a bar-b-que with a menu from which teachers and staff can pre-select their main course. There will also be salads and desserts. Heidi Wiest is coordinating the event.

McTakeover: The McTakeover fund raiser was tentatively scheduled for March 6 but that date turns out to be the date when the Memorial choir will be performing at West Albany High School. The consensus was that the event should be moved to an available date in the first week in April, preferably a Thursday. The PTC President will pursue those arrangements.

Sound System Fund Raising a/k/a Pig Kissing: The culmination of the second round of fund raising for a new sound system will occur during the assembly on March 23rd, the day before Spring Break. A lucky teacher or staff member will be empowered to kiss a pig – empowered by having the most donations made in his/her name. A search is going on for an appropriate pig.

NEW BUSINESS

Donations: A question was raised about the propriety of financially helping individual students on trips such as the People to People Student Ambassador program discussed at the beginning of the meeting. The conversation brought up the Memorial 8th Grade Washington DC trip as well. Mr. Gilbert noted that these are private ventures outside the authority and responsibility of the school and that District policy is to maintain the separation. He was concerned about PTC involvement might entangle the District with such programs. The consensus was that the PTC should not take action on this matter at this time.

Drama Club: It was reported that the Drama Club under the direction of Mrs. Cornwall needs a bit more money for its preparation and production of this year's play. It was **m/s/p** to allocate up to \$100 to the drama club for this school activity provided that the school added \$100 from its activities fund. Mr. Gilbert agreed to the stipulation.

PTC Sponsored Cancer Survivor Event: On a GAPS-wide basis, the PTC's are pooling funds to assist with a special dinner for local cancer survivors as part of an ongoing program under the auspices of Relay for Life to assist in survival and recovery. It was noted that cancer affects the school community as much as any other segments of the community and that it can strike anywhere at anytime. It was **m/s/p** to allocate \$20 for this event.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY,
MARCH 12, 2012 (THE SECOND MONDAY IN MARCH)
AT 6 P.M. IN A CLASSROOM NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO
THE SCHOOL.**