

MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER CLUB

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 10, MEETING

ATTENDANCE: Devan LaCoursiere, , Kristin Smith, Heidi Weist, Amy Schulte, Julie Rossback, Dawn Manning, , John Byrne, Cheryl French, Ken Gilbert, Traci Egan, Cheri Williams, Eric Bryant, Mallory Marquet

The meeting was called to order at 6:10. Introductions were made by those in attendance.

SPAGHETTI FEED: The need for more volunteers and the arrangements that had been made for the October 11, 2011 PTC/Band fund raising spaghetti feed were discussed. More calls were going to made for the volunteers.

Later in the meeting, there was further discussion of the spaghetti feed arrangements and the call for desert contributions. A student pie-making session (to make ten apple pies to be placed on sale) was scheduled for the October 11 Bear Time with supervision and materials supplied by Cheryl French.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Bear Time: Ken Gilbert reported that the Bear Time enrichment/intervention program has been going very well. The school added the intervention portion of the program during the week of September 25.

Intervention is limited at this time to math and reading. Students are selected for intervention on the basis that they are failing in the subject total grade. (The total grade is made up of 80% from the assessment portion (e.g. tests) and 20% from the assignments portion. The grading system is moving toward being based 100% on assessments.) Roughly 40 students (of the total enrollment of 635) were identified as needing intervention during the first week of intervention.

Mr. Gilbert said that the vast majority of the students are enthusiastic about the Bear choices and move quickly to the classrooms. There are a few stragglers but they are very few. He said that the school is adding 2 study halls to which those who drag their feet too much will be directed.

He noted that the pie making was scheduled for October 11 and it was the first of an anticipated increase in community involvement in Bear offerings. He went on to say that having sufficient space for proposed activities has proven to be an unanticipated problem that the school is working on.

Band Time and PE: The new schedule did not provide time for those choosing band to be assigned to PE. The band members are required to engage in a specific amount of exercise each week and they must turn in slips detailing what they have done. Mr. Gilbert indicated that the program is working pretty well. Some students have not been turning in the required information and the school will be following up to make sure students understand that the requirement will be enforced. If a student does not do the required amount of exercising, that student can be removed from the band. It was noted at the end of this discussion that there some physical activities offered during Bear Time but they are entirely voluntary.

Conferences: Conferences are scheduled for Monday, October 24 during what would be regular school hours and for the evenings of October 24 and 25.

Red Ribbon Week: Red Ribbon Week is scheduled for the week beginning October 24. It is marked by activities and an assembly that encourage the students to remain alcohol and drug free.

Costumes: Student will be allowed to wear costumes in school on Friday, October 28.

Magazine Sale: October 11 is the scheduled deadline date for turning in magazine orders. Mr. Gilbert said that orders are down by as much as 50% this year. He noted that it is a tough year economically in all regards. He also said that the school will be looking into an alternative way to raise money next year.

Penny Drive: Mr. Gilbert said that the Leadership students would be proposing a penny drive this year. Because that was a fund raiser that the PTC had used before last year, Leadership students would discuss their plans with the PTC. (Last year, the PTC agreed not to hold a penny drive when the students used that device to raise money for an anti-disease campaign.)

At the conclusion of the Principal's Report, Mallory Marquet was recognized.

Battle of the Books: The final portion of the \$160 allocated to assist with the Battle of the Books was spent. Those funds and others received for the program enabled the school to have five copies (the required amount) of each of the books used in the competition. Ms. Marquet thanked the PTC for its support of the Battle of the Books program.

Family Geography Night: Mallory Marquet and Kerrie O'Brien have organized a Family Geography Night (**6 p.m to 7 p.m., November 8 at Memorial**) for students, parents, friends and members of the community. The night will feature activities and games and information spread out in various places in the school. The evening activity is done in conjunction with the Oregon Geographic Association. Ms. Marquet asked if the PTC could contribute \$100 for the event to be used to secure items for display and

for prizes and rewards for participants. She anticipates that the event will draw 50 to 100 participants this year and more as the event becomes better known in the coming years. It was **M/S/P** that the PTC authorize the expenditure of up to \$100 for this purpose.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT: The minutes of the meetings in September were made available to the meeting. It was **M/S/P** to accept the minutes as written. The financial status report as of 10/4/11 prepared by the Memorial front office was also made available. It reflects that the PTC account (as of 10/4/11) was reported as \$1,360.29. That sum was after the last Battle of the Books expenditure but before any recording of expenses for the Spaghetti Feed. It was **M/S/P** that the financial report be accepted as presented.

SITE COUNCIL REPORT: Cheryl French, a parent participant on the Site Council, a committee of teachers, administrators, staff, and parents, reported on the discussions at the last Site Council meeting. (The meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of the month from 1 p.m. to the end of the school day. No meetings are scheduled for the months of December, March, and June.) The September meeting went over the grading policy (which is moving toward basing grades on assessment of progress toward meeting standards), the school's goals (which are being revised to stress improvement by all students), and the scheduling of conferences on Halloween – which was altered to the evening of October 25. The plan to hold conferences on Halloween was dropped.

Ms. French is currently the only parent representative on the Site Council and more are sought. (Heidi Weist subsequently volunteered for the Site Council. Ken Gilbert indicated he hoped that a third parent would join the Council as well.)

The Site Council also discussed the focus of future meetings. It is anticipated that the October meeting will discuss library acquisitions and the November meeting will include a discussion of the results of the new Bear program and of changes to the grading system. Later meetings will focus on the collaborative time (the purpose of the early release days) and on a school satisfaction survey.

FUND RAISING: There was then discussion of a fund raising activity for the purpose of raising money for a new sound system. The activity would involve the selection of a (willing) teacher or administrator to be dunked or otherwise treated in an amusing fashion during the course of an assembly. The fund raising part would come in the students, staff, teachers and anyone else contributing money in a race between a certain number of nominated teachers/staff/administrators to be given the honored position. (That is, the most money put down on a particular individual would entitle that individual to the honor.) The PTC President was authorized to work out the final details in conjunction with the school's administration. (It should be noted that Mr. Gilbert

freely and cheerfully participated in the discussion while acknowledging that he was a likely candidate for whatever special honor is devised.)

LUNCH BUDDY PROGRAM: There is currently a program overseen by the YMCA in which an interested adult outsider and a student who could benefit from the interest are matched for lunch at the school by the school counselor. Traditionally, the YMCA paid for the lunch at the school. The YMCA has chosen to end its financial participation in the program but not end the program itself. The counselor (being unfortunately ill at the moment) asked Mr. Gilbert to relay his request for financial assistance from the PTC. The amount needed could not be ascertained and the matter was put off until the next meeting to try to clarify what was needed.

NEXT MEETING: The meeting was held in a classroom rather than the staff lunch room for the dual purpose of making it less formal and of showing off different classrooms. Another classroom will be selected for the November meeting. (The classroom number will be posted at the entrance to the school on the evening of the meeting.) There was discussion about making a PTC contribution to the teacher of each room used for Bear Time activities in thanks for the room. That suggestion will be discussed further.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011, 6 PM.