

MINUTES
Seaview PTA General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, March 23 2011 – 6:30PM

Welcome – Melissa Marts, PTA Co-President (6:34pm)

Nominating Committee Report – Melissa Marts

We are looking for some more people for the nominating committee. We are also looking for people for next year's board. The time commitment for the committee is about one month.

Budget Report – Leslie Anderson

We have 3 grant requests and \$1000 in the grant line. The grants will be read tonight and then we will vote next month.

A grant request is being submitted to the EPSF for clickers. (information about clickers available on the request form) If Seaview purchases one set, we can get a second set at half price. PTA is being asked for \$670.25 to pay for HALF of the second set of clickers. This would be subject to receiving the Edmonds Public Schools Foundation grant for the remainder of the purchase price.

Ann Brown is asking for \$280 for subscriptions to Imagine Learning English. This would be a renewal of 4 subscriptions from last year.

Ann Brown also asked for \$150 for students to participate in a local workshop with Jaco-Brown. His services are being donated, but she would like to provide him with the \$150 to pay for Ferry tolls,

A question is asked about voting tonight. The PTA board believes the best practice is to present grant requests and then delay voting until the next meeting. Members are of course welcome to call for a vote or motion to table a vote.

PTA would like to encourage Seaview drama club to fund raise during evening performances by charging admission and/or charging for concessions. This would allow the club to purchase drama kits every year.

\$1,046 in matching funds was received from Boeing. \$100 came from **VM foundation**, \$25 from **Exxon**. This brings the total jog earnings to \$23,830. Box tops, cartridge recycling and PTA membership is down a little from our budget. Please send in your box tops.

ASB Report – Mr. Shepard

The students are interested in contributing to the Japan disaster. Mr. Shepard does not want to interfere with Coins for Kids drive. They will talk more and decide soon. It's suggested that we coordinate a fund raising activity with roller skating night. Another suggestion is "jobs for Japan". Kids could do jobs at home and be paid by their parents and then donate those funds.

CPC Report – no report at this time

Fund Raising Update – Kerry Fleiger-Holmes

Kerry attended the school board meeting. The big topic was the district budget. The print shop and food services were talked about. The print shop is not making as much money and may potentially be closed. The state is talking about reducing the K-4 funding, which would potentially increase class size by 2 students per classroom.

The district has asked their legal counsel for opinions on fund raising. 2 separate legal firms have found that students may not be used to fund raise during the school day.

Principals Report -Mr. Sackett

Edmonds School District budget meetings are coming up at the end of March and also in April. Parents are encouraged to attend one of the meetings to provide feedback to ESD. Dates and locations are available at www.edmonds.wednet.edu (click on the "community" tab and then 2011-2012 budget development)

Seaview currently has 421 students enrolled.

2 of our classes are at trigger - that's the 6th grade classes. Trigger is when the class size is larger than what is in the teacher contract. We have 43 kids registered for 11-12 Kindergarten and expect to have more students enroll in August as is typical in past years. It's common to have a 10 to 15 student increase in 1st graders for next year too.

5th grade science fair was last night and went very well.

Last Friday (a non-student, Professional Development day), the staff worked on their expectations for the whole school and talked about how to make that part of Seaview's culture and how to teach it to the students. The also talked about literacy and grants.

Guest Speaker - Mr. Webster, Meadowdale Middle School Vice Principal

Mr. Webster shared that his daughter is now a student at MMS and it's been a good experience for them and good perspective. The school remodel will not quite be done in the fall. A lot of outdoor work will be go on this fall. The gym is brand new this year and has been exciting for students and staff. Enrollment is going up from about 610 due to adding Spruce elementary as a feeder school. They expect to gain an additional 50 7th graders. The new building is giving MMS a bump up in enrollment as well. Maybe about 700 total. The building is built for 750 max.

For current 6th graders, Mr. Webster suggests working on organizational skills, maybe a planner or calendar. Communication with teachers is also important. Skyward can be used to help with communication. Mr. Webster suggests keeping kids very busy to keep them engaged. There are lots of new influences on kids at the middle school level. If you keep kids involved in activities, you have more control over their peer group than if they have plenty of free time to choose their own peers. Be careful about online stuff. It's probably impossible to eliminate online stuff, but it's important to monitor and teach kids to use these tools appropriately. Volunteering is very important at the middle school level. MMS has a Watch DOG program involving Dad's from their school.

A question is asked about counselors. There is currently one counselor for each grade. The 7th grade counselor has already met Seaview 6th grade students and will return later this spring. Question - how much of the counselors time is taken up with discipline. Ideally, zero. That is Mr. Webster's job. The counselors try to maintain as role as a confidant of the students. 3 out of 4 kids end up in Mr. Webster's office because they need help with something, not because they are "in trouble".

The electronic policy at MMS is that they are not allowed between the first bell of the day and the last bell of the day. There is a privilege system at MMS. If students earn a 3.0, they can earn a privilege, such as listening to an MP3 player at lunch time. There are other privileges as well.

The counselors go around to all the classes at the beginning of the year to discuss and teach about bullying.

Lisa Conley – MMS Parent Group

Many parents are discouraged from volunteering because their students are expressing to them that they want independence. Parents will sometimes volunteer during hall passing time, or lunch. Parent volunteers are a "visible adult" to remind kids to behave the way they know they are supposed to behave. They have library checkout, dance chaperones, etc. There are descriptions on the website. The students all say that they don't want parents around, but the staff and parent groups truly believe that the kids DO want to have their parents present. Parent group leadership volunteers commit to 2 years of service. The first year, as 7th grade parents, they shadow and learn from an 8th grade, more experienced parent. Then as an 8th grade parent, they will train and mentor new 7th grade parents. Bricks are for sale that will go in the new building. Information is available on the website. As district budgets are cut, the need for parent volunteers and fund raising grows.

Mr. Webster says that there are not a lot of text books that have to be carried back and forth to school except for the higher math classes. Age 11 - 14 is the biggest developmental period for humans next to age 0 - 4.

Roller Skating Night will be April 19th, 6 – 8 pm.

The meeting was closed by Melissa Marts and **adjourned** at 7:38 PM

A Sign-In sheet is attached to these minutes