

**PTC Meeting Minutes  
Ogden Avenue School  
March 1, 2011**

**Attendance:**

Dr. Cynthia Boudreau	Jill Daniels	Laura Attebery
Elizabeth Engels	Christine Mannella	Teresa Fitzgerald
Heather Hart	Tracy Metke	Mary Drew
Jenn Kolar-Burden	Carol Barrett	Susan Ragaishis
Mary Hayes	Sue Ruston	Nora Arnold
Carol Scotty	Sue Krone	Mei Sands
Lee Ruda	MJ Schremser	Tricia Wiegand
Luz De La Rosa	Jennifer Harding	

**Call to Order**

Jill Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

**Approval of Minutes of January 4, 2011 Meeting**

The minutes of the January 4, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Tracy Metke, seconded by Teresa Fitzgerald, both of whom were present at the November 30 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

Our last Flying High event made \$446; Ogdenpalooza and Social Fundraisers have brought in \$7,900 so far; Wolves Game brought in \$378.

We have projected revenue of \$9,800 still to come in this year, with remaining budget item expenditures of nearly \$6,000. We need to put in a budget line for mulching the flower beds. The District will mulch the playground (screened mulch) but will not mulch the flower beds.

**Principal announcements**

Drama Club tryouts will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Wells has put together a new play with a Sherlock Holmes theme.

Spring Concert is 3/15

Green Bagel Day is 3/17 – the children will get mini-green bagels.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade will attend the Boomtown fire safety assembly.

Kindergarten registrations are due on 3/25.

**President's announcements**

Box tops – most of recess equipment has been handed out – each Monday there is a presentation.

Everyone has adjusted their committee dates for change in end of school year. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Breakfast and the Awards Assembly have been moved. Field Days will remain on the original date.

Book Fair / Ice cream Social – The Book Fair will run from 6:00 – 8:00pm and the Ice Cream Social will run from 6:00 – 7:30pm. The Art Fair will be held at the same time.

We have found a chair person for the Variety Show. We need to make sure we are all in agreement that we should go forward with this, given issues last year. We may not be able to hold it at Park again.

## **Fundraising**

66 kids attended the Flying High event, which made \$446. This is the last event for this year. The Flying High rep recommended some changes, but we have not looked at this yet.

Kids Kreations – there was an issue with some of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders using copyrighted sports logos in their artwork. The company could not reproduce them. They blurred out the logos and proceeded with them that way.

## **Social**

Wolves Game – people had a great time. Everyone liked the lower cost of tickets.

## **Red Sled**

People are already turning in applications – some are not happy about increase of price. We need to post the new information and application on the website.

We still don't have anyone to take over Red Sled for next year. Nikki Noonan and Jen Harding will continue to be involved, but will not run it. We need new committee chairs.

## **Committees**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee**

Dawn Aubert presented the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Service Project, which will be held in conjunction with CEP Group Leadership. It is designed to meet some basic needs of families who have come in looking for assistance. These needs could be things like shoes and socks, food, toiletries, etc. Additionally, some of the project could go toward a summer camp experience, which some of these children do not normally get the chance to participate in.

The 1st meeting is informational and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will view a couple of videos explaining the project. The theme is Kids Can Do Big Things. They will launch the project on March 21 after the planning session with the students. The project will end on April 11.

The families receiving assistance will be anonymous to our students. They will be collecting actual goods as well as money for the families. The donations may come from a bake sale, a penny drive, a personal care drive, etc. The students will decide.

We need big communications push on this. It will need to be summarized with dates to go to website and in newsletters. The Committee will give us more info for website. Susan Ragaishis is the contact person for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee Communications.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade art project – gift for the school. This year it will be a glass project – the students will choose what they want to purchase, and they have settled on an artist.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Breakfast has been moved to June 6<sup>th</sup>. The recognition assembly is now June 3 at 1:45pm.

Susan asked how much we have designated for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee in the budget? The students have raised \$518 so far. The Committee has put out a deposit to reserve The Corral for the end of year party on May 31. \$500 is budgeted for the breakfast .

The Legacy Project is not a Committee initiative. It is school based, curriculum based thing. This year the stepping stones for the garden will be the Legacy Project. Ms. Horyn works with the students on this. The PTC may designate some funds to the project if Ms. Horyn needs supplies.

## **Circus**

We are looking into holding a Circus next fall. It would be held at Sedgewick Park or Gilbert Park. We need to have village, park district and police permits, which is being investigated. These governmental groups have worked with this Circus before and were very pleased with the operation – they are in and out in one day and leave the area very clean.

The Circus will not be held on a weekend; there will be 2 shows on a weeknight.

There are different levels / types of ticket purchases. We can buy all the tickets and sell them ourselves for whatever we want, which nets us the biggest profit. Alternatively the Circus handles the ticket sales, netting us less profit.

They bring in concessions, etc. It is not weather dependent because it is under the big top.

## **Garden**

The grassy area is not doing well. It has been re-sodded once after initial installations. The Committee has several ideas and wants to have an open discussion of what would work best.

Dr. Boudreau has suggested some parameters for moving forward:

- To create an aesthetically pleasing space with a natural look, to the extent possible
- To facilitate the use of the space by physically challenged children – handicap accessible
- To create a space for a number of children to be active and safe
- To eliminate to the best of our prediction any skateboarding / dirt bike riding and an appeal to older young people on the weekends
- To fit within the PTC budget availability
- To not plan anything further for installation in 2012 or beyond, other than general maintenance
- To create a space able to be used for most of the school year – weather-wise – (no mud, for example)

We need to eliminate after school bike traffic on the hill and in playground. One option may be to install a pedestrian gate or equipment (i.e. interactive panels) to divert the kids around the playground area. We could consider gating the entire playground after hours to cut down on the older kids' inappropriate use of the area.

We could modify the hill with playground equipment, something that is good for climbing and natural looking.

The Committee would like to have discussion about what people are feeling / wanting to see there. The safety of the surface needs to be considered.

Carol Barrett brought in several samples of synthetic surfaces (Astroturf). Ms. Wiegand asked how it is rated for winter use? Carol indicated that it is rated for 8 years. The typical pattern is that after some point the seams need to be re-glued. It can be snow-blown during winter.

Is Astroturf fireproof? For example, what happens when kids smoke cigarettes out there on weekends? This is not known. Carol will check into this.

One concern is that the District is not in favor of Astroturf as it can create a slippery surface.

A poured surface is an option. The area is about 25' x 25'. It would cost about \$9,000 to surface it in some synthetic material.

Mulch is an option. The District will provide the proper type of mulch, at their expense, and would maintain it, making this a lower cost alternative. A concern with mulch is that it is not wheelchair accessible. Mulch can be flammable as well. Sue Krone has a concern about mold and mildew in the mulch.

Sue Krone asked that we give them some ideas on what we want to do so they can follow up on regarding cost, safety, etc.

Play Equipment:

Mary Hayes expressed concern about nets and tall climbing equipment from a safety perspective. Everyone concurred with this.

Many like the idea of boulders or logs to climb on. Dr. Boudreau has a catalog with some options along these lines. Elizabeth Engels mentioned that from a maintenance perspective, perhaps a better idea is to use locally honed stones. The students enjoy climbing on the existing boulders around the brick area.

There was discussion about razing the hill. This would cost \$1,500 - \$2,000, as the labor is expensive. Problem of not taking out the hill is that surfaces don't hold up to 650 kids pounding on it. We could put boulders around the hill to prevent the afterhours issues, but we'd still have to determine what type of surface can hold up to the students wear and tear and also provide safety.

The teachers felt that the hill is used by all kids, but they often have to go get clean pants due to mud. It is a great 'King of the Hill' and social area. Boulders would probably serve same purpose. The teachers indicated that they have had no issues with mulch – the kids just shake it off.

The south end has provided a very nice area for physically challenged children.

Sue Krone asked how they should proceed. Jill said that we need to balance what we can do against tight fundraising dollars. What are the various ideas and their costs and safety implications? If one of the ideas is THE IDEA, perhaps we need to divert funds from somewhere else or fundraise specifically for that.

Tom Ackerman does not have the final word on what is implemented. Dr. Boudreau makes the decision and it will have to go to Dr. Shillingburg for approval.

Next steps – the Committee will come up with options and costs, and bring that back to us. They should perhaps think about a phased approach.

Dr. Boudreau reminded us that there are aspects of the garden that need maintenance. For example, the District won't pay to mulch plants, etc. We need an ongoing maintenance committee to weed and water, including throughout the summer.

Susan Ragaishis asked whether we could have garden club so the students could participate in the maintenance. The issue is that students are not here during most of the time that the maintenance needs to happen.

We should consider whether there are any additional resources/ideas for maintaining garden, such as Scouts.

## **New Business**

Nora Arnold (Ogden's Science Center Liaison) let us know about the new K – 6 Science Curriculum that will be implemented next school year. The curriculum has a multi-cultural aspect to it. The Science Center Parent Enrichment Council met yesterday and got an overview of the program. They are very excited about it and are happy to see that students will now have science textbooks which contain stories that build in world perspective on solving issues of science, technology, engineering and math.

The new program will be presented to the Board of Education at the next meeting.

## **Adjourn**

Laura Attebery moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m., Elizabeth Engels seconded the motion.