

**PTC Meeting Minutes  
Ogden Avenue School  
April 5, 2011**

**Attendance:**

Dr. Cynthia Boudreau  
Elizabeth Engels  
Sue Krone

Jill Daniels  
Heather Hart  
Carol Barrett

Laura Attebery  
Teresa Fitzgerald  
Mary Drew

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of Minutes of March 1, 2011 Meeting**

The minutes of the March 1, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Heather Hart, seconded by Carol Barrett, both of whom were present at the November 30 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ogdenpalooza made \$2972 and the social events netted \$9,921. Quiz night made \$1763, which was more than the fall event. We are expecting about \$3,000 from Kids Kreations. We are still waiting for yearbook numbers.

We're doing well on the budget now thanks to these fundraisers. We have about \$3,600 in the budget for Dr. Boudreau spend for the school and teachers. She will think about the best use for these funds and get back to us.

**Principal announcements**

New Kindergarten screening is next week and Visitation Day is 4/20 from 3:15 – 4:00 America Castagnola and Nikki Noonan will be providing some small refreshments – they should expect about 30 people.

Success night is this Thursday – 6:30 – 7:30

On 4/26 a glass artist will be coming in to talk to 6<sup>th</sup> grade about their class gift.

**President's announcements**

We had a big fundraising month last month, which put us back on budget.

We are all set for the Book fair / Ice Cream Social on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Doors will open at 6:00pm. The Ice Cream will shut down at 7:30 and the Book Fair will go until 8:00. Artwork will be displayed around both the gym and the MPR, thanks to the Art Appreciation group.

Staff Appreciation is coming up the first week in May. The Committee has something planned for each day rather than a single big formal lunch. They are still in planning what will happen. Lyn Wheling and Sheila Nunez are chairing this effort.

The May meeting will be on Wednesday, May 4 rather than on the regularly scheduled Tuesday, due to the Band Concert on Tuesday.

We are still trying to fill positions on the Exec Board for next year. We still need a VP, a Fundraising VP, and a secretary, as well as Red Sled VP.

Sue Krone asked whether there is information somewhere about each position. Descriptions are posted on our website: [http://ogden.102ptc.net/procedures\\_exec](http://ogden.102ptc.net/procedures_exec). We do need a good 'write-up' of the Red Sled VP position.

We may need to rethink how we do Red Sled in view of not having anyone to run it. Most of the money is made on the tables. The Café made money because of donations. The Raffle is a lot of work as is Candy Cane Lane. Perhaps we should let those go to reduce the workload and make it easier to manage. Reduce the 'high volunteer time' activities. We don't want to cancel it – it is a great event for the whole community.

We should also consider whether it would be better to do more social fundraising and cut back a little on Red Sled.

## **Fundraising**

The bulb sale is on now.

## **Committees**

### **Garden**

Laura brought in a new idea for the garden area – install a Gaga Pit. Gaga is a ball game played in an octagonal, fenced in space. The walls can be high or low – designed around the age of kids who would be using it. It can be built with open slats and having low enough sides so bigger kids can't hide in it. There are not many other pits around. This is big with Indian Princesses.

The game is similar to dodge ball, but the ball is kept low to the ground. It is a rolling or lower leg game. The space could also be used as a social area without balls, also making it available for handicapped.

This may provide a low cost, easy solution. We could have dads come over to raze the hill and build the pit. The walls could be painted whatever color, style etc. The cost would be in moving the boulders and cat. Even if only lasts 2 – 3 years, still low cost to maintain or replace

Sue Krone is concerned that it would make the space just another ball area – currently that area is more popular with the kids who do not want to play ball.

Sue and Carol Barrett presented several other options:

1. Remove the hill and put in piling steps – wood pilings set solidly for climbing and seating. The wood is approved for public use and won't rot, etc. These create a good combination of play and social area. Pilings set down in 3 feet on a concrete pad. A very rough estimate indicates that this may be a more expensive – but estimate may be off because it was based on a much larger area than we have to work with. With this option, we don't need to move the cat.
2. We could terrace the mound into 3 different levels with a minimal amount of synthetic turf to manage surface and runoff. The existing boulders would remain in the back. This would be similar to the hill, but easier to surface. There would still be a concern for the bigger kids with skate boards and bikes. This may be even more interesting for them.
3. They looked at a synthetic turf idea from the surrounding area – it looked very nice and had good drainage. It was not worn down after several years. It is being used by K – 5 students. It looks green.
4. We could install a poured rubber surface which is non-slip and non-toxic. Carol and Sue saw this installed at a shopping area which is very highly trafficked. We could maintain the existing boulders but add additional ones to get rid of bikes, skateboards, etc. We would cover the existing hill.
5. We could re-shape the area to provide some contours. This would not necessarily keep the existing hill, but re-shape.

6. We could install some climbing structures built into the existing mound. This would be good for the littler kids. We would keep the boulders around outside.

For any of the options, we could consider putting in more of the locally quarried boulders as additional climbing / sitting elements.

For any solution to work, we need to make sure it meets most of Dr. Boudreau's parameters:

- 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 a 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 reviewed all 7 options against the parameters and determined that Sue and Carol's first option, the wooden pilings, meets most of the parameters and seems most functional to the most students and will provide an alternative to the ball area of the playground.

Sue and Carol will come back to us with more firm cost estimates at the May meeting. They would like us to put out an amount that we are willing / able to spend and they will build to that amount.

There was further discussion about the planters and replacement of plants. We think we could solicit donations from the bulb sale to get extras that people are not going to use and we can ask that if people are splitting their plants at home, and not planning to use them, perhaps they would donate them to the school garden. Carol and Sue will come up with list of what they want and we can put out a note in the weekly news.

Sue will finalize arrangements with the Village of LaGrange regarding the Arbor Day tree for the parkway.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Adjourn**

Jill Daniels moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m., Carol Barrett seconded the motion.