

Minutes of Brighton School PTO Meeting Held on September 30, 2009

PTO Officers: Frank Brisse President
Kim Lohr Treasurer
Ron Neufeld Secretary

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Frank Brisse.

- 1) The minutes for the May 26, 2009 PTO meeting were reviewed and approved.
- 2) Committee Chair Reports

A) Nicki Galipeau: Community Chair

Nicki went over ideas for community involvement, ie. Things we do to give back to the community. These included 1) donating care bags to a tent city to help the homeless. 2) A special project involving third world outreach. 3) Possibly inviting speakers, for example a speaker on energy. 4) Purchase seedlings for earth day.

B) Leona Bratz: Education Chair

Leona shared personally from her positive experiences as Education chair. She called for someone to take over her position for next year. She also called generally for people to consider involvement with the PTO.

Leona spoke on how overnight trips have had a huge impact on students. She gave a description of the individual overnight camps. PTO began to support these trips 5 years ago. While allocations are being reduced this year, the overnight trips are still a priority.

Script funding is such that anything raised by Script over \$5000.00 goes into funding for overnight camps to be shared equally by all grades.

C) Jacob Nichols: Subject matter expert

The biggest chunk of funding goes to Brighten Covey Program. There are also programs similar to the Helen Thayer program of last year.

D) Kim Palmer: Homework Club

PTO supports the homework club and hires Nobel and Brighton staff members to run it. Rose Duarte is this year's staff person. There is a sign up sheet for students with 10-12 kids consistently attending.

E) Chris Kocher: Cultural events

Chris called for volunteers to assist her. She gave an overview of some of the programs for this year, incl. Oregon Shakespeare Festival, 5th Avenue, Pacific Science Center and artists. This year the first woman from Washington State to finish the Alaska Iditarod dog sled race will give on campus workshops and an evening presentation on October 12, 2009.

F) Beth Featherstone: Auction Chair

The auction will be held on March 20, 2010 with John Curley as M.C. The theme is Fiesta Fantastico. Beth spoke about the lower amount of funds raised last year. The challenge this year is to get more people to show up for the auction. Attendance last year was down 30-40 people from the year before. Beth announced that a new position has been created called audience development.

Procurement forms will come out in the next week or so. These can be downloaded online. Beth noted that restaurant certificates were hard to get last year.

Beth put out a call for volunteers to take up the following positions:

- 1) Someone to write catalogue descriptions.
- 2) A person to coordinate 4-8 grade class projects.
- 3) A same day coordinator to help oversee the set up of the auction on auction day (will need to be at the hotel all day).
- 4) Someone to write auction newsletters.
- 5) Someone to write procurement thank you letters.

The first auction committee meeting is at Beth's house on October 1st (enjoy wine and companionship while conducting the business of the auction)

Two further notes on the auction: Beth is not expecting to raise prices this year and grandparents are welcome

David Locke commented on the auction by suggesting that we take the mystery out of the auction for new and younger parents. Have seating by grades. Get more parents involved.

G) Jennifer Silagin: Script program

Jennifer explained how Script works and noted that the Script program is the PTO's second largest fundraiser. She strongly encouraged the use of Script. Jennifer reminded us that Script cards can be used as gift cards for the holidays, coaches gifts, teacher appreciation gifts etc. American express is available. Forms are available online. You can also check for vendors online. A big appeal of Script is that it is very flexible.

- 3) Student Body president Nick Birkby spoke to the PTO. He gave a very engaging talk, giving a good description of what student council does, including leading school assemblies, welcoming people with apples, building a new 4 square court, organizing dances and putting on the Halloween parade. Other components of student council are all school community building, and working with charities.

4) Review and Approval of Budget.

Frank Brisse led the PTO in a review of this year's budget, after which the budget for 2009-2010 was approved.

5) Open Business:

- a) Sue Elvrum spoke of her positive experience this summer in hiring an 8th grade worker. She strongly encouraged the hiring of 8th grad workers. A directory of work they are willing to do is located in the office.
- b) David Locke mentioned a non PTO item. This is the last week of gift wrap which is an important fundraiser for teachers.
- c) Robert Lohr gave an overview of movie nights. Two movies are shown each night. The kids really enjoy these movie nights. There is a second room for older kids who might get bored. Robert put out a call for volunteers to help.
- d) A clarification was made that a room parent is not a PTO position. It is more of a Brighton position. A room parent is to establish two way communications between parents and PTO.

No further business. PTO meeting adjourned at 7:45p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ron Neufeld