Seven Oaks Elementary PTA

General Membership Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 3, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.

Seven Oaks Library

**Welcome and Call To Order\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm. In attendance: Christine Avey, Leslie Anderson, Jamie Wilde, Marcia Lundgren, Sabrina Ford, Tiffany Blaine, Dyan Kastner, Alicia Rosti, Christine Allred, Shammie Fisher, Lynn Canning, Michelle Harris, Alison Lark, Ashlee Anderson, Libby Butler, Merrianne Cavazos, Bonnie Klaas, Lorrie Argabrite, Wendy Sonne and Angela Allington

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Review of June General Membership Minutes by Jamie Wilde. Leslie Anderson motioned to approve the minutes, Alicia Rosti seconded the motion, and motion was passed.

**Principal’s Report\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Lil Folkner was unable to attend but sent the following letter to be read:

Good Afternoon Everyone!

I apologize for not being in attendance at the PTA meeting today but I am accompanying my 85 year old father to a very important doctor appointment. I am very fortunate to have both of my parents living nearby and being available to help with their care is one of my highest priorities.

These past weeks it has been my great pleasure as the new principal to meet and work with staff, students, and parents at Seven Oaks. This school’s reputation for academics, extracurricular activities, and parent advocacy and support is well earned and respected and I am very pleased to be a part of this culture. Public schools do face the challenge of attracting and keeping students given the options of open enrollment, charter schools, and home school. I see the challenge of increasing the number of students at Seven Oaks as an opportunity in the making and one that both school staff and the PTA can work on together.

In other meetings with school community and staff personnel, wants and needs have surfaced that have caught my attention and interest. Some of those areas are:

* Obtaining one on one devices for student use especially for technical writing and web-based programs
* Increase K-2 student proficiencies in math fluency, number sense, and place value with more hands on manipulative kits, models, and intervention support all including high, medium, and low functioning students by implementing parent volunteers in additional avenues of support
* Promote genre reading through library incentive programs
* Dr. Clark’s concern that all elementary schools align K-5 instruction to Idaho Common Core Standards to better support students as they take new Smarter Balance testing in spring 2014

Modified calendar schools face the additional challenge of conducting school during August, a prime summer vacation month. Schools are budgeted based on daily attendance, Seven Oaks had 46 students absent on Friday, August 30 which is more than 10% of our current student population. Convincing parents to make a concentrated effort to take vacation days during track breaks will really help with our attendance numbers.

I hope to meet with you in person at the next PTA Parent meeting.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lil Folkner

**Officer’s Report\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**President’s Report – Christine Avey:**

The Eagle Y Kids program is still offering day care during our meetings. If you would like your children to go there during PTA meetings, they are welcome to do so, the Y just needs a form filled out.

PTA membership forms are available here if you would like to sign up. We welcome all to our meetings, but you do need to be a member to vote.

 Harvest Festival is coming up and is our main fundraiser for the year. It is a staff and parent only event, that is jean casual and a fun night with dinner and live and silent auctions. Watch for invites to start coming home with your children starting tomorrow. You should have also received an orange sheet that is requesting donations from parents for this event as well. Our parent donations are often the most popular donations and go for the most amount of money in our auction. The venue is here in Eagle this year and it should be a fun night.

**1st VP Report – Leslie Anderson:**

Art from the Heart: Christine Allred has revamped the art program and made it very easy to use. All visual images have been made available in a power point format that has been downloaded onto the teacher’s computers. Hoping to make this program only a 5 minute prep with a goal of 2 art parents per classroom.

Science & Engineering Club is holding two meetings this month. The Discovery Center is coming and will be there Wednesday September 18th from 4-5 pm for K-2 grades and Thursday September 19th from 4-5 pm for grades 3-5. This will allow for more age appropriate activities. Anyone can attend but a permission slip does need to be signed. These permission slips are available on the PTA website as well as in the upcoming newsletter.

Reflections, is a national PTA art program/contest that encompasses many types of art. Art done for this program needs to be done by the student. Andrea Palmer is the chairperson; she finds professional judges in each area. Submissions are due Oct. 30th. This allows for time to have the art judged and sent on to the district/regional levels. There is a reception to see all the submissions and awards for the winners. The theme this year is “Believe, Dream, Inspire.”

**2nd VP Report – Tiffany Blaine:**

Spirit Wear: The new designs have done really well. Sales have been up this year to a total of $1,129 for the first month. Last year we sold a total of $950 for the entire year. Order forms are at the front table and in the front lobby.

Target Red Card: This is an easy way for our school to make money. This card is not a credit card and works like a debit card. You receive a 5% discount on all your target purchases and 1% goes to our school. This can really add up. With only 32 parents currently signed up we earned $852 for our school. We would love to double that this year with 50 to 60 parents signing up and hopefully double the rewards for our school as well. We will continue to put this in the Newsletter to advertise this to parents.

Box Tops: Another easy and free way to earn money for our school. Each box top is worth ten cents to our teachers. This money goes straight to our classroom teachers to use however they wish. Box Top contest runs from September 13th - October 18th. A winner will be determined for the class with the best decorated container as well as the most collected box tops. Information will be included in the upcoming newsletter.

Scrip is another easy way for us to raise money for our school. This is a gift card program where you purchase gift cards for almost any merchant and our school gets a percentage of the total valued purchased. Discussion was had about how to improve this program to make it more successful. Getting parents more information, possibly keeping some gift cards on hand for us to sell at PTA meetings and events, inviting friends and family, as well as doing it more regularly were all discussed. A sheet was passed around to gather information on most popular gift cards to possibly order and keep on hand. The idea was also discussed to have Scrip sheets available at Parent Teacher conferences for parents to take home. Dyan was looking for help and Alica Rosti offered to help her facilitate this program. The budget for this has been increased because we are hoping to do it more than twice this year. We raised $550 last year, hoping to raise $650 this year.

**Treasurer’s Report – Sabrina Ford:**

Review of the proposed budget: Because we are a non-profit we have to balance the budget to zero. We typically carry over $5,000 for the next year’s board to have money to get the year started. The audit went fantastic. Thank you to all of you who turned in your receipts. We had a receipt for every request making the audit very easy. They are still working on our tax returns. For this years proposed budget we kept all the same numbers for projected income as we had last year, for both fundraisers and consumer programs. But, hope to raise more money this year. We are currently looking for a winter fundraiser chairperson. There are many possible fundraiser ideas, if anyone is interested in chairing this event. Budget line items such as spirit wear, yearbook and community events we try to break even. Last year we made $63 at the Bingo Night. We have increased budget amounts for the following items: field trips, cabin writing program, and teacher appreciation. Fieldtrips are taken by every grade and must be approved thru the district. The Cabin writing program is a 12 week creative writing course for 4th and 5th graders. This is a great program where the students each receive a bound anthology of their work to take home.

Sabrina Ford motioned to approve the budget and the motion was seconded by Bonnie Klaas. Voting was unanimous and the budget was passed.

**Secretary Report – Jamie Wilde:**

Newsletter: Submission date is this coming Monday September 9th. The newsletter will go out Wednesday September 11th. Please email any information you would like included to jamiewilde@comcast.net.

**New Business \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

Open Chair Positions: Winter fundraiser, Giving Tree and Nominating Committee.

No meeting in November due to track break but will resume general PTA meetings in December.

School Calendars are on the school website <http://www.meridianschools.org/Calendars/Documents/2013-14%20Modified%20Calendar%20Final.pdf> . There is also a link to our PTA website as well <http://sevenoakspta.weebly.com/> . Stephanie Harold our computer teacher has so graciously helped us get this up and going and you can find meeting minutes as well as newsletters on the website.

**Announcements\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Science & Engineering Club: Wednesday Sept. 18th: K – 2nd grades, 4-5 pm in the gym

 Thursday Sept 19th: 3-5th grades, 4-5 pm in the gym

Assemblies: Tears of Joy Thursday September 26th (K-2 @ 9:15 am, 3-5 @10:15 am)

October 1st: Next PTA meeting at 6-7 pm in the library.

**Door Prize!** Caramel Apples were won by Allison Lark, and Ashlee Anderson.

**Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.