

**Alki Elementary
General PTA Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2008**

Welcome and Greetings: PTA President Jen Hey called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm in the school library. A quorum was present (see attached attendance sheet.) She announced that while this was scheduled to be the last PTA meeting of the year, there would be another one held on June 11th. This additional meeting will be short, but important because we will finalize and approve the budget for next year.

Legislative Report: Julie Howell stated that she will not be continuing her PTA board position as Legislative Representative as she has completed her 2-year term. She explained the duties that the job entails so that others will be more informed and may volunteer to take her place. A community meeting was held last week about the strategic plan presented by the district superintendent (a handout was distributed outlining the proposal.) Julie is excited about the potential changes coming to the district and feels this is a great time to become involved. She is available to field questions about the Legislative position, so anyone interested should contact her.

Principal's Report: Joanne Hill declined to give a principal's report, stating that she was planning to address the budget decision and nothing else. Since that portion of the agenda is tabled, she will not be speaking at tonight's PTA meeting.

Nominating Committee Report: Julie Hartley and Sharon Matarangas presented the following recommendations on behalf of the nominating committee: For President: Laurie Rasmussen; for Vice-President: Emily Rough and Allison Carver (joint responsibility); for Secretary : Julie Hartley (continuing in her present position); for Treasurer: Steven and Janet Smith (joint responsibility.)

**Election of Officers for the 2008/2009 School Year held and all officers were voted in with no further nominations from the floor or dissenting discussion.*

Budget Committee Discussion: Erika Shearer and Principal Hill talked with staff about the potential decision for PTA to fund the \$42,000 necessary to hire a replacement teacher for a 0.5 position that is being lost. Currently this position has been held by Sandy Sheinbaum and her services have been utilized to support struggling intermediate students. A proposal has been made to re-hire someone for this educational support position, but potentially change the focus from intermediate to primary to keep support more balanced. (Laurie Iba would continue to work with intermediate students, but the new hire would work with primary students.) The budget committee met to discuss this proposal, but the staff will need to have further discussion to see if there are other options that would fill the same need. There may be less costly solutions to explore, since year-to-year sustainability is a big concern. We have the funding for another teacher for next year, but it would consume nearly 2/3 of our fundraising profits. Being able to finance that teacher annually may not be realistic. The next steps are to discuss it again as a staff, then the budget committee will meet, followed by the PTA meeting on June 11th to have the final vote. Big budget items currently being funded include: Artists in Residence program, family fun nights, site improvement projects, enrichment activities, and a playground supervisor.

FLASH Night: Family Living and Sexual Health Night for 5th grade families is coming up on May 28th and childcare will be provided in the cafeteria. Karna Leinbach stated that volunteers are needed to help during the time when pizzas are being delivered. Families will be bringing additional food items such as salads, cake, etc. All 5th grade families are encouraged to attend.

All-School Beach BBQ: The date has been set for Thurs. June 5th from 5:30-7:30 pm at the picnic shelter across from 62nd and Alki Ave. Doreen and Jeff Sifferman are in charge so anyone able to help should contact them directly. Incoming kindergarten parents will be invited as well as all current Alki families. Sharon Matarangas will help with welcoming new kindergarten parents by heading up a Welcome Committee at the BBQ. Ideas were discussed to help make the BBQ inviting and not so overwhelming for new families. There will be balloons marking a kindergarten table that has been set aside. Those serving on the Welcome Committee can wear Alki shirts or Alki-aThon shirts and name tags. The PTA will provide hot dogs, buns, and condiments. Families are asked to bring the extras (divided by last names). The idea of matching newcomers with mentoring families was brought up again, with favorable response. If such a program was implemented, it would be on a volunteer basis only. Perhaps a list of people willing to mentor could be provided to new families along with contact information.

Razzle Dazzle Day: Razzle Dazzle Day will be on June 13th from 1:00-2:30, with a BBQ lunch beforehand. Contact Juanita Hoskins if you can help with leading activities or set-up and/or clean-up duties. Volunteers are also needed to help with serving during the BBQ.

5th Grade Breakfast: Doreen Sifferman and Susan Hamilton are heading up coordination of the 5th grade breakfast. It will be held on Monday, June 16th from 8:15-9:15 am. Volunteers are needed to help with serving and set-up (except for 5th grade families.) Allison will put out a "needs" email for upcoming activities such as this that still need volunteers.

Special Meeting for Approval of Budget: Jen Hey again stated that June 11th will be our final PTA meeting of the year when we will approve the budget for next year. It should be a short meeting (possibly an hour or less depending on the amount of discussion regarding the budget decision.) Attendance is strongly encouraged because we need a quorum to pass it successfully.

Other announcements:

-There are extra shirts from the Alki-a-Thon that can be used by Alki parents or sent to the Dominican Republic in support of the "giraffe project " in Ms. Coghill's class.

-On behalf of Alki parents, Jen Hey wrote a letter to the district regarding the art piece that we would like to reclaim from the district. She will bring the letter to the next PTA meeting. Erin Gosma will write another letter on behalf of the teachers and will also bring it to the June 11th PTA meeting. Joanne Hill expressed surprise at the news that the district wanted to be compensated for return of the artwork (including repairing the wall where it has been displayed.) This was discussed at previous PTA meetings and parents once again stated a desire to retrieve the art that was removed without authorization from Alki staff.

-Thank you's: Jen Hey thanked everyone for their involvement at Alki. She expressed gratitude for those that helped during her 2 years as PTA President. Laurie Rasmussen gave special recognition and thanks to Jen Hey, Karna Leinbach and Erika Shearer for their PTA board involvement. They will continue to be involved at Alki in other capacities, but will no longer be serving on the board.

-Karen Leinbach asked questions regarding the brainstorm session we did for new PTA activities/programs. Discussion followed about how we need more volunteers to make some of the ideas a reality. There are lots of things Alki parents want to see happen, but there are only a

few people that are able/willing to put in the work required. The idea of Parents with Passion was brought up and it was suggested that we could match parents with school needs by filling out a survey of when they could volunteer or areas they are interested in. Maybe this could be approached from two angles: a Help Wanted board with announcements, then also a survey and personal follow-up. Another idea was to have a Helping Hands tree where needs could be posted on paper hands. Parents could look for jobs that meet their talents or schedules, then leave their name and phone number and take the hand with the job description.

-Steven Smith stated that he would be willing to mentor someone to take over the Reflections Art program. This event is usually held during the same time period as the auction so he will not be able to head it up next year. The main duties of the Reflections Chair would be to distribute information to the students about the theme and deadlines for the Reflections program and also facilitate class time being set aside to create the art projects. There is a culminating party where the art is showcased and Steve suggested that the orchestra could play. This would recognize music as an art form along with the visual media that is represented by the Reflections artwork. If anyone is interested in taking over as the Reflections Art Chairperson, please contact Steven Smith.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Julie Hartley
Alki PTA Co-secretary