

**LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BOISE, IDAHO**

**PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 7, 2009                      7:00 P.M.**

Those present:

Stacey St. Amand (President)	Ann Cline
Rene Simpson (Treasurer)	Karen Drew
Wendy Wendrowski (Secretary)	Dan Haney
Darcy Drake (Past-President)	Kirsten Haney
Betty Hoogland (Principal)	Karelyn Kruger
Danette Kuecks (Volunteers and membership)	Jonathan Oppenheimer
Marcia Trumble (Teacher Representative)	Victoria (Executive Director – State PTA)
Amy Eiden (Teacher Representative)	Micole Mayfield (President-Elect – State PTA)
Tenley Gagner-Lutz (Teacher Representative)	

**1. Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Stacey welcomed Victoria and Micole, who would be speaking to the membership about the benefits of PTA membership.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was distributed. It was noted that the version distributed was different than the version that had been e-mailed. The agenda was amended to include a discussion of the Liberty Garden, and the agenda was approved as amended.

**3. Reading and approval of the minutes:**

The minutes from the meeting of September 15, 2009 were posted on the website, and revisions were requested and made. The minutes were approved as amended.

**4. Reports of Student Representatives**

The student representatives had nothing to report to the membership, and Stacey excused them from attending the meeting.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report (year-to-date) was presented (attached) and discussed. The Treasurer's report was approved.

## **6. President's Report – Stacey St. Amand**

### **a. PTA/PTO vote**

Stacey reviewed the “fact sheet” that she prepared and presented at the last meeting.

Micole reminded the membership that, because the membership had joined the “PTA,” if the organization decided to change to a “PTO” then the money needed to be returned. The organization will lose its non-profit status and will need to apply for its own non-profit status; and will need to draft and vote on new by-laws and articles of incorporation. Micole and Victoria discussed the benefits of membership in a PTA organization, including the Reflections art program and other programs that the PTA sponsors, the discounts available through the PTA membership card, and the ability to lobby the state legislature. Victoria discussed the Idaho PTA membership's vote (at convention this past Spring) to increase the dues. Idaho PTA is well respected in the state legislature, and frequently the state legislature solicits recommendations for individuals (PTA members) to serve on committees.

General discussion was held regarding the ramifications of switching to a PTO at this point in the school year, including the immediate need to hold a membership drive, elect officers, and prepare by-laws; and the inability to utilize the PTA bank account. The general consensus was that such a change would be better implemented over the summer. A request was made to invite a speaker from a local PTO to a meeting of our membership so that we could learn about the benefits of PTO membership. A motion to table the decision of whether to dissolve the PTA and form a PTO until the January meeting, and to invite speakers from local PTOs and from the state PTA to address the membership, was approved.

### **b. Dues**

Based on the Board's recommendation, the motion to set annual membership dues at \$10 per member was approved. Teacher members will need to pay an additional \$3. Members that purchased a family membership will need to pay additional funds if more than one family member intends to participate in PTA activities. Stacey will prepare an announcement for the newsletter.

**c. Standing Rules**

The proposed Standing Rules were posted on the Liberty PTA website over the past month. The motion to approve the proposed Standing Rules was approved.

**d. Sally Foster**

The Sally Foster fund drive has collected over \$21,000 so far, with more orders coming in. The deadline to submit orders is October 13<sup>th</sup>. We need to determine the amount of cookie dough sold, so that we can determine the success of that program.

**e. School Directory**

Many advertisements have been sold. The forms to “opt out” of being included in the directory are to be returned by October 19<sup>th</sup>, and the directory is to be sent to the printer that week. An art contest is being held for the cover of the directory.

No funds have been budgeted for the directory. Any amendment to the budget must be approved by the general membership, after providing notice to the members. Such a vote will be held at the next general membership meeting. Consequently, the PTA cannot incur any cost related to the directory until the budget is amended.

**f. Audit**

Due to a miscommunication, we received recommendations for internal controls rather than an audit of the 2008-09 books. Eric Bond, CPA (the husband of the director of Liberty’s Just for Kids) has agreed to audit our books at no charge. Rene will contact him.

**g. Parking spaces**

The right to park in the reserved spaces was auctioned off, and additional funds were raised for the PTA.

**7. Teachers’ Report**

No report was given.

**8. Principal’s Report – Betty Hoogland**

Dates to remember were presented. Betty agreed to include in the newsletter that a school-year calendar has been posted, and will be regularly updated, on the Liberty PTA website.

The Lifetime Movers Club has begun for the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The PTA typically provides dinner for the teachers because they are staying late to accommodate working parents.

## **9. Committee Reports**

### **a. Membership – Danette Kuecks**

No report was given. Danette indicated that she would contact Dan Haney to discuss membership drive ideas.

### **b. Art Committee – Karelyn Kruger**

No report was given.

## **10. New Business**

Dan Haney – The City Council meeting to discuss the proposed cell tower has been set for November 17<sup>th</sup>. Dan Haney will attend the membership's next general meeting (November 12<sup>th</sup>) and present the issue at that meeting.

## **11. Old Business**

### **a. Liberty Garden**

The site requested for the Liberty Garden was approved by Facilities & Operations, but the site needs its own water source. The cost of the work, quoted by F&O, exceeds the amount of the grant. Betty spoke to Chris Taylor, and asked that the quote from F&O be itemized so that we could determine whether the work could be done for less money.

Stacey agreed to post information (including the grant proposal) regarding the Liberty Garden on the Liberty PTA website.

## **12. Adjournment**

By motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.