



*PTA General Meeting
FEBRUARY 8, 2012
7:02 p.m. – 8:07 p.m.*

Those Present

Jonathan Oppenheimer (President)
Erin McCandless (Vice President)
Andy Newman (Asst. Treasurer)
Janene Kattner (Secretary)
Bill McKittrick (Principal)
Rene Simpson
Jody Carkhuff
Sen. Mitch Toryanski
Michelle Kemner
Rep. Julie Ellsworth

Tracey Thomas
Dan Haney
Debbie Miller
Grady Wright
Jeremy Gunther
Nikki Hampton-Haworth
Stephanie Glancey
Jessica Nichoelson
Rep. Phyllis King

Absent

Danette Kuecks (Treasurer)
Amy Eiden (Teacher Rep.)
Brenda Cannon (Teacher Rep.)

1. Call to order

President Jonathan Oppenheimer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Introductions

Everyone at the meeting took a minute to introduce themselves.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the prior General meeting held on January 4, 2012 were circulated to the general membership prior to the meeting for their review via email. Copies were also available at the meeting. **Upon motion by Grady Wright to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2012 General meeting, seconded by Nikki Hampton-Haworth, said motion was unanimously approved.**

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Oppenheimer then reported to the PTA that our Treasurer, Ms. Kuecks was unable to join us this evening but that she gave a report at the Board Meeting which took place prior to the General Meeting and stated that the budget was in good shape and on target to finish the school year. He went on to state that upcoming fundraising events would be the Spring Read-A-Thon and the Art Fair and Silent Auction. Mr. Oppenheimer reported that Ms. Kuecks informed the Board that the PTA has spent approximately \$15,000 on various investments at the school so far this year and that the Treasurer was going to work on providing information regarding the PTA's spending this school year to the public. The updated budget would be provided to the membership with the draft of the meetings of the February meeting.

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5. Principals Report

Mr. McKittrick informed the membership that the teachers will be taking a Math MTI course over the next several weeks in the hopes of providing a more hands on math curriculum to the students at Liberty next year. He stated that the Board of Trustees of the Boise School District have asked that the school give a 20 minute presentation at Monday's board meeting on the Montessori program at Liberty. Finally, he provided the membership with an update on the Cafeteria changes he implemented and stated that he met with the classroom representatives and was surprised that the students themselves still felt the cafeteria was too noisy but they reported they liked the new trash system. He stated that they are moving Liberty Pride to the Library to make the event a little more formal. He will pass the students cafeteria feedback onto the leadership team and teachers so that they can make adjustments to the new program.

6. Committee Reports

a. Box Top Bingo

Mr. Oppenheimer introduced Stephanie Glancey to provide the membership with an update on upcoming events. Ms. Glancey stated that they were still looking for volunteers for the Box Top Bingo event and passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers. She solicited the membership for help to provide chili, corn bread and desert items for the event as well. She requested that any deserts containing nuts, dairy or gluten free items should be clearly marked and to group the items to be sold in \$1.00 packages. Bingo cards will be sold for \$5.00 or 50 Box Tops for 11 cards and showed the membership the Box Top Bingo Flyer with a grid on the back for box tops to be taped to so it was easy to turn in the 50 box tops to get the bingo cards. Finally, she reminded the membership that parents need to stay at the event to provide supervision for their children, as well as, to claim the grand prize.

b. Valentine Sales

Ms. Stephanie Glancey then told the membership the next box top collection event would be the purchase of valentines for \$0.50 or 5 box tops and would be delivered by the PTA to the students, teachers and staff Monday after school in time for Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14th. These Valentine's will also be available at the Box Top Bingo event on Saturday so parents can purchase Valentine's for their children.

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c. Read-A-Thon

Ms. Glancey continued her presentation informing the membership that the primary spring fundraiser will be the Read-A-Thon and everyone needs to encourage the kids to participate, especially the upper elementary students. This fundraiser brought in approximately \$8,000 last year and if we could increase the participation this year for this fundraiser it has the potential to become the main fundraiser for the school. The Read-A-Thon will begin after school on March 23rd with a read in event in the school's library. She stated that volunteers are needed to help supervise the children and check out books. Packets for the Read-A-Thon will be sent home on March 16, 2012 with instructions for the students to gather donations. The PTA is working on generating interest in this event by creating goals for the school to meet wherein the principal may agree to shave his head and beard if the goal is met, giving away prizes to the children who read the most such as the top reader for the school, grade, class, etc. or perhaps a field trip for the top class in the lower elementary and a field trip for the top class in the upper elementary to the YMCA for swimming. She indicated that they have some donated prizes such as kindles and ipods but that if anyone could solicit additional prize donations that would be helpful to help generate interest in the event with the students.

d. Family Fun Night

Mr. Oppenheimer then finished up the updates on committee reports by stating that Family Fun Night was set for March 13, 2012 in connection with the Levy Vote and it will be a PTA sponsored ice cream and karaoke night. The PTA will also provide a presentation on how the PTA has supported the school this past year.

e. Art Appreciation and Silent Auction

The last event currently planned is the Art Appreciation and Silent Auction which is scheduled for May 8, 2012 beginning at 6:00 p.m. and there will be baskets auctioned off, as well as, the parking spaces.

7. President's Report

Mr. Oppenheimer gave the President's Report for the evening stating that the Levy Vote is scheduled for March 13, 2012 and that the PTA has voted to endorse and support the levy so he encouraged the membership to endorse the levy to their families, friends and



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neighbors. He indicated that if anyone needed absentee ballot information he had that available and it would be available at the Box Top Bingo event as well.

He reported that there is a change in open enrollment for the Boise School District stating that parents will need to re-enroll for open enrollment or participation in the Montessori and all day kindergarten programs annually. Apparently, the school district was unaware that it was in violation of an Idaho Code requiring this annual re-enrollment. Liberty Elementary currently has sixty (60) students outside of the liberty school district attending Liberty Elementary School but it is his understanding no one has been declined to date but that students can have their open enrollment status revoked for behavior or academic issues.

Mr. Oppenheimer then informed the membership that the Capital Contributions Committee's ideas for enhancements for the school will be more formally organized for next school year because most of the funds in this year's budget have been spent. Ideas to place funds into a Capital Contributions Fund will be for technology enhancements for the school such as a wireless system, electronic books for the library, etc. The largest expenditures for this school year has been the PTA Buck\$ program which provides \$150.00 to each teacher each semester to purchase supplies for their classrooms.

Finally, Mr. Oppenheimer informed the membership that a Nominating Committee has been formed and will be chaired by Erin McCandless to identify individuals wishing to be nominated to the PTA Board for next school year. Anyone interested in nominating anyone, including themselves for any PTA officer or chairman positions were encouraged to contact Erin McCandless, Danette Kuecks or Stephanie Glancey. Once the nominations are identified the candidates will then be voted on at the April meeting.

8. Guest Speakers – District 18 Legislators (Reps. Phyllis King, Julie Ellsworth and Sen. Mitch Toryanski)

Mr. Oppenheimer then introduced the guest speakers for the evening to the membership and asked each House Representative and Senator Toryanski to speak for 10 minutes on current legislative matters.

Representative Julie Ellsworth then introduced herself and handed out an Idaho Stamp Collection paper to all the members and encouraged them to have their children create a postage stamp for the State of Idaho so that she can share them on her website. She then stated that so far this legislative season she has been busy in the rules committee looking at how laws passed in previous sessions were implemented and if they are being applied as intended pursuant to the spirit of the law. She mentioned such laws such as railroad safety, disbursement of funds, laws relating to multiuse facilities licensing and juvenile detention

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rules. Rules relating to revenue and taxation, small business, large business and how the legislature can help attract businesses to our state to push Idaho out of the recession.

Senator Toryanski then introduced himself and stated that he is a first term senator and is still learning how things work but sits on the Joint Financing and Accounting Committee, Education Committee and the Millennium Fund Committee (Tobacco Funding). He stated that on the Joint Finance and Accounting Committee he helps determine how the monies received by the State are spent. They have been hearing a lot of testimony so far on health care exchanges, affordable health care act and state developed health care exchanges so that the federal government does not impose a solution for Idaho. He stated that the committee is looking at developing a market based website for a health care exchange where you would be able to do a side by side comparison of healthcare. This has been sent to the Governor's office. They have been given a lot of testimony to restore the funds to the Department of Health and Welfare, as well as, developing a suicide hotline. He has been working on the introduction of a texting bill and a bill to create a tax exemption on the costs of aircraft parts so that aircraft repair business can be brought to Idaho.

Representative Phyllis King concluded the evening's presentation by finishing out the legislative update stating that an Individual Ethics Committee is being crafted, a whistle blower reporting process for state employees and a bill to evict the Occupy Boise movement from the state land. She stated that they are being careful to consider a person's right to free speech but realized the difference between encouraging a person's right to free speech and the government's rights to regulate their land. They are also working in safe guards for when the Occupy Boise movement is asked to leave that their personal belongings are taken care of and that the people involved in the movement will have plenty of time to remove their belongings. She reported that she is working on an animal cruelty bill which will make the third conviction a felony. They are looking at fracking and she gave a quick overview of what fracking is and her concerns about the companies requesting permission for fracking not having to disclose to any state agency what they are pumping into the ground to extract the gases. She is also working on educational issues such as restoring teacher pay versus funds being used to purchase computers and technology in the schools. She expressed her concerns about teacher's pay for performance and how teachers can move to Wyoming and earn \$10,000 more a year than they earn here in Idaho.

Mr. Oppenheimer thanked the senator and representatives for coming and then opened the floor to a short question and answer session.

9. Adjournment

Upon motion by Jonathan Oppenheimer to adjourn the meeting and said motion duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 7, 2012 in the Liberty Elementary School Library.