

Enriching the Lives of the Pioneer Elementary School Family
General Meeting Minutes – March 22, 2011

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Those in attendance were Kandra Barrett, Heather Christenson, Denise Pantelis, Mauisha Shinde, Jeana Callicoat, Will Callicoat, Jama Williams, Scott Williams, Nancy Major, Jeff Snyder, Drew Wellner, Erin McDonnell, Kristen Jaudon, Jeanne Tranum, Tiffin Moreno, Randy Gunderson, Cortney Wright, Jennifer Johnson, Amy Riggs, Randy Weeks, Jeff Snyder, Spencer Olmstead, Carolyn Flynn, Paula Reeves, Colleen Madden, Susan Champagne, and Denise Laflamme.

Secretary's Report: Quorum was established. Colleen Madden moved to approve the February general meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Randy Gunderson said the auction income exceeded the budget by \$5,000. The Fund-An-Item came in at \$3,400 and the tickets sales were at \$3,000. So far for the year, it looks like we will be \$5,000 under our budgeted expenses.

Featured Speakers: Fifth grade teachers, Jeff Snyder, Spencer Olmstead and Carolyn Flynn, discussed the process of 5th grade transition to middle school. They have talked with 6th grade teachers at Washington Middle School about 5th graders' preparation. They rank and group the 5th graders at the beginning of the year according to skill level for classes. Snyder got this idea of going to the middle school when he ran a private school and realized that teachers needed to know where students were going to make student transitions easier. The 6th grade teachers were eager to share information with the 5th grade teachers. Since implementing this process, they have received positive feedback from kids, parents and teachers.

President's Report: Tiffin Moreno and Jeanne Tranum discussed the results of the PTA survey. Seventy-four PTA members responded to the survey. Most people thought the PTA is doing a good job and are happy with the events and activities sponsored by the PTA. We are looking for ideas on how to increase the PTA membership.

Pioneer donated \$1,000 to Madison Elementary PTO. Jeanne Tranum and Tiffin Moreno attended their PTO meeting. With this donation they are taking the entire school to Northwest Trek. Madison is also in need of a new playground that will cost \$35,000. The existing playground will be taken away in March.

Principal's Report: Principal Randy Weeks said he isn't sure about where education stands in the state's budget. The PATS program will not be funded next year. The district will be looking at alternative testing at a lesser cost and the kids involved in PATS will still be involved in something else. Parents need to voice their opinions to legislators. As of now, Pioneer doesn't need to cut any teachers, but we may need to rank the programs of the schools. We are planning for three kindergarten classes – 1 full day and 2 half-days. Fifth graders will be leaving for Cispus after spring break.

Committee Reports:

- **Staff Appreciation:** During National Staff Appreciation Week, they will provide goodies to the Pioneer staff. There is \$800 budgeted.
- **Healthy Lifestyles:** The track needs fortifying. It is a low-cost way for students to get exercise. Walk and Roll Wednesdays are still occurring. Mr. Weeks goes to a different neighborhood to walk with kids. They are looking for volunteers to watch the intersections and help kids safely cross streets.
- **Auction:** Erin McDonnell thanked everyone for their participation in the auction. It was monetarily successful. Erin also suggested that we need to review our goals for raising PTA money because the auction is a lot of work. There may be other ways to raise money or cut the budget.

- Science Fair: Denise Laflamme said the science fair will be held 6 – 7 p.m. on March 30 in the cafeteria. There are many kids signed up for it. There are 15 physics students from the high school who will be judges and are looking for more volunteer judges.
- Field Day: The field day chair is having a baby and they are looking for volunteers to help with her duties. The date for this event is June 17.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 p.m.