

PTO Minutes  
PTO Meeting  
November 20, 2008

The meeting began at 9:00AM. Those attending were: Terry Gillach, Dawne Owen, Beth Shannon, Fiona Vickers, Christie Sprowl, Stephen Topping, Jaclyn Thayer, Beth Waters, Ashley Kirchner, Trina Faatz, Jessica Waldman, Lynne Milane and Vickie Thompson.

The following items were discussed:

**1. Cougar Challenge- Christie Sprowl:**

We have collected \$36,073.00. To date we have 63% participation. We have about \$1000.00 in matching funds pledged.

**2. Mini Grant Awards:**

Dawne reported that she and Vickie Thompson represented the PTO Board at the SIT meeting on November 10, 2008. This was the meeting where the teacher Minigrant requests are reviewed and voted on. PTO had allowed a budget of \$8000.00 for this year. Dawne explained that each person participating in the process is given a packet that contains each request. Each person is asked to review the packet before the meeting and rank each request with an approval, denial, or unsure-need more discussion. As each person arrives at the meeting, they record their votes for each item on the board. A discussion of each request follows and votes are tallied to see which requests are approved in full, or partially or not at all. Dawne provided a list of the approved items. Items not funded via the minigrants are often funded through other sources. The teachers all understand the process and know they will not always get everything they request. Good faith efforts are made by each member to grant as many requests as the money allows. This year the requests were \$46.00 over the budgeted amount. A motion was made, seconded and passed to cover the additional \$46.00.

**3. Open Enrollment Tours:**

The dates for the OE tours are as follows:

Parent/Student Open House – Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008

Day tours for students w/ adult –

Tuesday, Dec 17, 2008

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

Thursday January 8, 2009

Monday, January 12, 2009

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Fiona Vickers will be taking down names of parent volunteers to help out with the day tours. Terry, Ina and Mike give a 30 minute presentation in the cafeteria and then the group is broken down into smaller groups for the tours that are led by 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It is helpful for a parent volunteer to go along on the tour to answer questions parents may have. Volunteers should plan to be at school from 9:00AM to 11:00AM.

**4. Principal's Update- Terry Gillach:**

Terry advised everyone that we are retaining more neighborhood kids than ever before. BVSD is the only district this year that did not cut teachers. Next year could be a different story.

SHMS is not increasing its capacity, even with all of the new construction. It is likely that we will be accepting fewer open enrollment kids.

As far as construction is going, all is well and on schedule. Plans are being made to move into the new Science wing over President's weekend in February. The Foods class will be adapted to a different curriculum since they will be out of their space.

Hot Topic night is scheduled for December 1st. The topic will be the Thrive Handbook. Chris King will be present at the meeting.

Terry said the "bomb scare" resulted in only a few more than regular absences from school on Wednesday, November 5. There was very little talk about it among the students. They do not know who did it...there was some writing in a bathroom in a place that is very hard to see if you were not looking for it. He said that 95% of the time the finder is the doer, but not in this case. There was some discussion around the issue of email notification of things like this and whether or not another form of notification should also be used. Terry said there are only 2 families without email access and those 2 families are called in these situations.

Terry said they did a climate survey of the kids. The results were high ratings from the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and lower ratings from the 7<sup>th</sup> graders. They plan to do more focus groups with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders to work on the problems.

Terry said the kids had identified 2 issues they felt indicated the staff does not trust them: the closed gate on the right side of the cafeteria and not letting the kids into the building until 8:30AM. Terry will try opening the gate and if there are no problems or issues with it, they can continue to keep it open. They cannot change the time of entry into the building. There must be supervision in any areas where the kids are allowed to go and there is not enough staff to supervise any other areas prior to 8:30AM.

Beginning next week and for about 4 weeks there will be power disruptions due to the construction. Back-ups are in place and teachers are preparing to return to chalk board teaching rather than smart board teaching. There is some concern around the potential loss of the elevator for several months. March, April and May will be very disruptive. A conduit buried in the cement floor was discovered and must be changed. Some furniture items may be recycled and parent help may be needed with moving things around. The outside panel colors were changed from rust to brown. An amphitheater is going in next to the science wing.

#### **5. Treasurer's Update- Beth Shannon:**

Beth provided a copy of the Profit & Loss Statement for July 2008 through November 17, 2008.

#### **6. Other Topics:**

Ashley will sign up for Library space to have PTO meetings for as long as we have that space available. As long as construction is going on we may have to change our meeting locations, possibly even at the last minute.

We will not have a PTO meeting in December. The next PTO meeting will be on Thursday, January 15, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vickie Thompson  
PTO Secretary