

**PTSA Meeting Minutes**  
**September 29, 2005**  
**Elementary School Library**

**PRESENT:** Angela Booth, Betsy Brennan, Elizabeth Coler, Meghan Ten Eyck, Lori Head, Jennifer Heffele, Todd Hindman, Betty Johnson, Warren Johnson, Julie Kelso, Urtha Lenharr, Stan Lujan, Sylvia Matson, Karen Mehl, Myra Murphy, Barb Nickels, Christina Partridge, Sharon Penttila, Candy Peterson, Janeen Sullivan, Gina Thomas, Margaret Thomas, Jon Wehde, Lisa Wehde, Carl White

**CALL TO ORDER** Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Nominees –passed**

President – Barb Nickels

Vice-President – Julie Kelso

Secretary – Gina Thomas

Treasurer – Lori Head

**APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2005 MINUTES - passed**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT** Barb Nickels addressed PTSA objectives, breakfast program, and the Nome Public School Web site.

**AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP** Children in the grades K-3<sup>rd</sup> are released at 2:00pm, whereas 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> graders are released at 2:30pm. This creates a problem for some parents whose children do not ride the bus, as they must either make two trips to pick up their children, or have the earlier released child wait at the school for 30 minutes. Students are required to wait outside for parents and are usually unsupervised, resulting in a parking lot safety issue. Parents requested a central meeting area for children from 2:00 to 2:30, such as the library or gym. Principal White to research amount of children who wait for parent/guardian for pick-up. Suggestions,

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such as chess, arts & crafts, or reading could be scheduled for 30 minutes with a specific teacher aide. Principal White stated that a teacher aide is unrealistic due to funding. Students may not use the library to wait unless they are supervised. Other suggestions were presented, such as the Boys & Girls Club and Kawerak Child Care

**DISMISSAL TIME** The possibility of one dismissal time for K-6<sup>th</sup> was discussed. Warren Johnson gave statistics regarding the number of students riding the bus. The numbers showed that many more children ride the bus home after school than to school in the morning – apparently because parents are able to take their children to school before work. For the first day sampled, a combined total of 95 students rode the two buses to school; 88 rode them home at 2:00 and 66 at 2:30. Statistics for the second day sampled showed a similar pattern. Since the maximum load for each bus is 60 students, a third bus would have to be used if all students were dismissed at the same time. There is a spare bus, but Warren also pointed out that it would be very difficult to hire a driver for just one run. Some parents did not like the idea of extending the school day, particularly for kindergartners.

### **CAMP PRESENTATION – Charlene Koutchaq**

- Healthy lifestyle habits and nutrition for children.
- Stop the sale of pop in schools
- Healthy snack options for schools
- Increase fresh fruit in schools

**MATH CURRICULUM** Currently there are three math programs being used at the elementary school:

K – 2nd: Saxon Math

3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Two teachers use Math Central and one uses Everyday Math

4<sup>th</sup> grade: Math Central

5<sup>th</sup> grade: Saxon Math

6<sup>th</sup> grade: Math Central

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Parents requested a standardized math curriculum. The success of our standardized phonics program was cited as one reason to consider standardizing math as well. The decline in math AYP scores was another reason. Teachers commented that having the ability to supplement the math programs assists in teaching material and helps children who may be struggling with math concepts. Parents clarified that standardization would not limit teachers' ability to supplement with additional resources as they see fit.

Parents asked who chooses and reviews curriculum. A decision to draft a resolution to the School Board to standardize math was passed.

**LEVELING AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM** Parents had several questions related to leveling at the elementary school:

- How will parents be assured that their child will be taught at the appropriate level?
- How are the child's skills being assessed?
- Does the school plan to give out the MAP scores during parent teacher conferences?

Carl White stated that teachers are leveling based on assessments. MAP scores will provide another important tool to assess skills. They will be available during parent teacher conferences.

Parents stated that children needed to be sorted into different groups and need enrichment programs. Betty Johnson described a "Math Superstars" program that was used a few years ago for advanced math students. Parent volunteers ran the program. Parents stressed the need for actual enrichment programs, not just more of the same work for students that finish early.

A decision was made to draft a resolution in support of leveling at the elementary school.

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**REPORT CARD** Barb Nickels reminded the group of a previous decision that if direct instruction is not given in Science, Social Studies, or History, N/A will be placed on the report card. She asked for confirmation from Carl White that this would be the case for this year's report cards. Carl so confirmed.

**CORE KNOWLEDGE SEQUENCE** Julie Kelso gave a brief overview of the Core Knowledge Sequence, a product of the non-profit Core Knowledge Foundation. The sequence is a very specific curriculum for preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the subjects of Language Arts/English, History, Geography, Visual Arts, Music, and Math. Because it provides a clear outline of content to be learned grade by grade, it eliminates gaps and repetition. Parents or teachers interested in the sequence can find out more at [www.coreknowledge.org](http://www.coreknowledge.org).

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR PHOTO** The group agreed to use the graduating seniors photo for the community calendar.

**DISTRICT WEBSITE SUGGESTIONS** Due to time constraints, it was decided that Julie Kelso would gather comments from the group via email for submittal to Robin Johnson and the Website Committee.

**CLASSROOM SIZE** Elizabeth Coler stressed the need for smaller class size, citing the number of students in the second grade classes in particular. She expressed frustration at her numerous previous attempts to get this problem addressed. The group voted to draft a resolution regarding class size.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.