

# **PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. Box 1565  
Nome, AK 99762**

Minutes of August 17, 2009 Board Meeting

President, Julie Kelso called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., in the Nome Elementary School library. The following individuals were in attendance:

Janet Balice	Paula Kennedy
Shari Biscotti	Barb Nickels
Lori Head	Sharon Penttila
Julie Kelso	Allison Wrenn

**PTSA T-SHIRT** Paula suggested that we order PTSA T-shirts for events and as giveaway gifts.

**PTSA MEETING DATE** Date set for Wednesday, September 23.

**ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE PTSA** provided refreshments for Open House in the past. Shari Biscotti asked that there be information going out to the community so the turnout is high. Janeen Sullivan suggested that the high school open house have a cookout in front of the school. Shari described Open House which is a looser format and unstructured, whereas Back To School Night is very structured with teachers giving academic information to parents in each classroom. Shari prefers a Back to School night format.

**PTSA BIRTHDAY CALENDAR** Julie suggested that prices for calendars and ads be increased. It was decided that the calendar price would be increased to \$7.00, but that advertising rates would remain the same. Julie requested that someone take over sending out the bills for the ads. Paula Kennedy volunteered.

**VISION/HEARING SCREENINGS** PTSA has helped with these in the past. Date to be determined for this year.

**SCHOOL PICTURES** Shari said the photographer requested help this year. A concern was raised that volunteering for a private business is a conflict for the PTSA. Lori and Julie volunteered to help on that day. Paula raised a concern about the prices of the photos, and that they may not be affordable for many parents. Allison Wrenn mentioned several options (i.e. using online photo sites and larger photo companies) in providing school photos to the students. Janeen Sullivan stated the contract had already been decided for this year. Janeen also made note of the superior quality of the photos received from this photographer last year. Shari Biscotti offered to speak with the photographer about the photo prices for this school year, as well

as providing whole class pictures.

**TEACHER ASSISTANCE** Shari said that teachers appreciate volunteers for special events and having PTSA ask teachers what they need help with.

**PTSA FUNDRAISING** Shari said declining enrollment has caused school funding to be less this year. She would like PTSA to fundraise for attendance incentives, field trips, one family activity a month, special pencils, and assemblies during the school year. Shari said there is a direct correlation between parent involvement and improved test scores and she would like to increase parent involvement.

**FIRST PTSA MEETING** A PTSA meeting that involved visitors or special events could include serving food, having a potluck or bingo. Shari said she has made personal phone calls, and sent home personal letters to encourage parents to be involved. Shari said a meeting that is business only is not one that interests most parents but a more hands-on experience would be appropriate for parents. Ideas presented were having the first meeting soon after new parents sign up at open house to capitalize on enthusiasm, keeping a list of parents who attend events as a resource for future activities, using the bingo hall for an event, having another event like the young authors night. Shari suggested that there be a small board that takes care of the business part of the PTSA while other parents will provide help as needed. Shari said there were three goals for the PTSA- student achievement, parent involvement and support teachers. It was decided that the next PTSA meeting would be a regular business meeting. This meeting would include items from the regular agenda plus School Site Council, Alternative Governance Plan, parent involvement, student incentives and budget planning for the year. PTSA will come to the next school staff meeting on August 26/27 and ask for input from teachers for ideas or events.

**READING LIST** Julie suggested that the PTSA provide reading lists for each grade level that both students and parents could use as a resource for selecting quality reading material. Teacher input would be sought in composing the lists. Shari suggested that the Literacy Council might also help with that. Janet said that she would send an e-mail to the Literacy Council about this idea. Julie reminded the board that the Literacy Council may need help with the Imagination Library since that grant has ended.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.