

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1565

Nome, AK 99762

Minutes of September 28, 2009

President, Julie Kelso called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Nome Elementary School library. The following individuals were in attendance:

Janet Balice	Laura Lawrence
Shari Biscotti	Sylvia Maton
Pat Booth	Karen Mehl
Julie Kelso	Pat Robinson
Paula Kennedy	Janeen Sullivan
Marguerite LaRiviere	Jon Wehde

APPROVAL OF 5-26-09 AND 8-17-09 MINUTES - Paula Kennedy moved that the minutes be approved, Sylvia Matson seconded, and the minutes were approved by a vote of those present.

NOME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - This was the first week for third graders going until 2:30. Bussing changes were going smoothly so far. The extra 30 minutes are being used for reading instruction. Shari would like to get a school wide reading program requiring students to read 30 minutes a night as homework starting in the next quarter. This will include individual goals for students - perhaps reading across Alaska using pages for miles. Students would try to meet a reading goal with a special activity at the end. First grade and up would participate as readers. School homework would include reading for a certain amount of time every day. The Literacy Council said they would help with this. Parents said they think movie tickets would be a good goal. Shari said a mentor program with Nome Eskimo would help with kids whose family was not available to sign off on their reading. Each student would have an individual reading goal set by their teacher. The city librarian said that students without parent support would have more difficulty with this program. Some children are not allowed to take books home because parents are concerned about losing the book. Goals should be met throughout the year to encourage excitement in reading. A reading list for students would be helpful. Accelerated reader has a list of books that may be used. A number of teachers already required reading nightly as part of homework. Karen Mehl thought it should not be part of a grade because some students do not have family support for reading. Shari wants to get books in kids' hands through Scholastic

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Books. The Imagination Library reading program now gives books to children from birth to age five. The city librarian agreed that the books should be given to the kids. The program should be school wide so that kids can feel a sense of belonging to a larger group. A committee with teachers, Literacy Council and Joy will be formed. Also, Shari would like a PTSA member to be on a school site council. This is part of the alternate governance plan. Julie would like to be a representative on this.

PTSA BIRTHDAY CALENDAR Birthday calendar sales are currently happening with help from many areas. Sales are currently at 60% of last year's total sales. However, when contacted, subscribers said they are still planning to put in orders.

VISION/HEARING SCREENINGS A volunteer sign up form was circulated for assistance with upcoming screenings at the elementary school and Nome-Beltz.

PTSA BUDGET In the absence of treasurer, Lori Head, Julie Kelso submitted the 2009/2010 PTSA budget for approval. The budget includes \$1,000 of unallocated expenditure. These funds may be allocated during the year for projects that would benefit a broad scope of students, as opposed to the PTSA scholarships, that benefit only a few. There is approximately \$10,000 left in the PTSA savings account from years' past. Sylvia Matson moved that the budget be approved. Janeen Sullivan seconded and the motion carried.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL A School Site Council (SSC) includes stakeholders from the community that are advisory to the school. The SSC will monitor school progress and ensure that the school improvement plan is being followed. There is a balance of school and community members on this council elected by their peers. Shari would like a PTSA member to be on the SSC and a person from one or more native associations, a Title One parent, and a person at large to represent the community for the school. Shari would like a ten person SSC that would meet every other month. Training for members would be included. This SSC is expected to be started during October. Sylvia suggested that an e-mail be sent inviting PTSA members to be on the SSC. Paula said the membership is 25 with a total of 75 interested persons to contact. Discussion on how to conduct the vote concluded that the information be sent out to all members stating Julie Kelso is a nominee for the SSC from the PTSA with a week to respond with any objections.

NOME-BELTZ JR/SR HIGH Janeen Sullivan described the new mentoring program at the junior high and high school to help students be successful on a personal and academic level. Students and teachers meet on an individual basis and in a small group once a week. Career readiness is also being offered to students. Every student has a mentor teacher assigned to them. The current drop out rate is 8%. 10th is the grade where students usually drop out. Rachel's Challenge has helped to lessen bullying and improve school climate. The principal will be at Airport Pizza on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. to hear from parents that wish to speak to her. The website is in need of updating on a more regular basis since parents do use that resource.

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PLANETARIUM NIGHT The Museum of the North will be here Thursday providing a planetarium show for 40 kids at a time. Thursday night at 7 p.m. there will be a planetarium show for the community at NES.

FLU PREPAREDNESS Nome Elementary School and Beltz has not had a high amount of flu sickness. Jon Wehde said that sanitizer is being added to classrooms for hands and cleaning of tables. A flu preparedness plan has been created for the district.

PTSA NUTRITION COMMITTEE Improvements for the school lunch menu are occurring this year including more fresh food, no cake or brownies, less hot dogs and less food served in syrup. Staff said the new food had been well received. It takes ten times to introduce a new food for kids to try a new food.

EXTREME PE AT NES Marguerite asked how extreme PE was going and if it would continue. Shari said students were actually getting more PE overall and on Fridays a whole grade level goes to PE with two additional staff at once to allow for collaboration and planning of grade level teams.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT This event has traditionally been held at the Nome Recreation Center. November's Family Fun Night will be held at Nome Elementary School to include an educational component.

ADJOURNMENT Julie Kelso adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.