

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1565
Nome, AK 99762

Minutes of February 5, 2008 Meeting

President, Julie Kelso, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Nome Elementary School library. The following individuals were in attendance:

Julie Kelso
Todd Hindman
Barb Nickels
Janet Balice
Sandi Keller
Carl White
Paula Kennedy
Janeen Sullivan
Margaret Thomas
Sylvia Matson
Lori Head

Spelling Bee

A letter was received from a parent regarding the spelling bee. Suggestions were:

Having easier first rounds so all students are successful.
Having judges hold up one card.
Having words more clearly read.
Having origin of the word available when word is given.
Separate the bee into two – one for elementary and junior high.

Julie said the first words were largely the easiest words but some were not. Julie said that last year there were a finite number of words that the students knew would be the first words that count in the bee. She said they will do that next year again. Todd said the judges' signs were actually not used as intended this year and that will be corrected next year. There are not enough volunteers to run two bees. They would like to have more students involved next year and it was suggested that a group go to each class to advertise and increase enthusiasm. This year they also didn't purchase a prepared spelling book but downloaded it and next year they will purchase a prepared copy of the spelling book. Nanci Tungwenuk would like to find a replacement for herself as the organizer of the spelling bee.

Scholarships

Julie Kelso asked if scholarships are the best way to spend PTSA funds. There is a lot of work for fund raising and the scholarships may not be affecting the greatest amount of students. One e-mail response was that it is a tradition. Also, many kids are benefiting by working hard to try to be eligible for the scholarships. Some ideas Julie suggested were teacher trainings, a geography bee, mini grants for teachers, and accelerated reader for classrooms. Barb Nickels brought up the idea of healthy foods during the SBA testing. Julie suggested an Olympics of reading to encourage reading. Lori gave the history of the scholarship amount which has grown over the years in size and numbers. The budget is approximately \$3000 for the scholarships. Margaret suggested that the criteria be reviewed for the scholarships. Barb Nickels and Carl White said they would be willing to review that and that it should be done prior to the students filling out the scholarship packets. After discussion, Carl suggested that a rubric be developed with points. Barb Nickels said one criterion should be that a parent helped with the PTSA. Sylvia Matson said we should decide if scholarships are what the PTSA wants to do. Sandi Keller suggested that PTSA fund an after school program to help struggling first graders. Julie summarized that we are in favor of scaling back the scholarships. Carl offered a motion that PTSA will provide two \$500 scholarships for this year. It was seconded by Lori and passed. Sylvia proposed that we decide among two choices: 1) we don't keep any scholarships after this year, 2) we cap it at \$1000 maximum for next year. The motion passed for the second choice. Carl assisted in creating a rubric for scholarships:

- 1) Parent/ student participation in PTSA
- 2) Duration in Nome Beltz- 1 point per year
- 3) Community volunteer
- 4) Work ethic
- 5) Extracurricular school activities-leadership
- 6) Accepted to an institution
- 7) Grades as they relate to area of interest
- 8) Accepted/registered to institution
- 9) Direction

It was decided to let applicants know that these are factors that will be weighted with a point system but no one factor can disqualify an applicant. Margaret motioned that Carl be the chair of the committee to continue working on the scholarship rubric. An e-mail will be sent out calling for volunteers to serve on this committee. The motion passed. Sandi and Paula volunteered to help with the rubric/scholarship committee.

Todd Hindman suggested that PTSA money be used for small activities throughout the year for students perhaps on school evenings instead of full funding for a DAWN camping trip.

Iditarod concessions

The week of Iditarod concessions are sold at the mini convention center by student groups for their benefit is Sunday the 9th through Saturday the 15th with sales starting on the 10th. PTSA coordinates this for the benefit of school groups. Sandy Babcock, the previous organizer, is not able to do that this year. Julie suggested that each group send a representative on Sunday to be trained and when their group volunteers. It was decided that the supervision would be spread out between several people and an e-mail would be sent out for participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.