

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

Minutes of April 23, 2009 Meeting

President, Julie Kelso called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., in the Nome Elementary School library. The following individuals were in attendance:

Julie Kelso	Sylvia Matson
Paula Kennedy	Margaret Thomas
Lori Head	Robin Johnson
Janet Balice	Diana Adams
Carl White	Nikki Polk
Janeen Sullivan	Elizabeth Coler
Betsy Brennan	Allison Wrenn

Reception for Shari Biscotti

PTSA is considering hosting a reception for new principal, Shari Biscotti, during her upcoming visit on Monday, May 11.

Conference call with Shari Biscotti

A conference call was made to the new elementary principal for the 2009/2010 school year, Shari Biscotti. Ms. Biscotti said that all of her schools where she has been a principal were Title I schools. Her varied employment has allowed her to experience many different schools but Title I schools are her interest. She feels that parents are important and the PTSA is an important participant in the school environment. She feels that Accelerated Reader is an effective tool in schools for learning to read. She would like to start some sort of "parents as partners" in schools. The principal is the instructional leader with the school and she will be visible around the school and in the classroom.

Nome School District 2009/2010 Budget

School Board and PTSA member, Betsy Brennan gave a brief report on the proposed FY 10 district budget. The school board will vote on the budget at their upcoming meeting on April 28th. Jon Wehde had copies of the proposed FY 10 budget for members to look at.

Emergency Preparedness

Jon Wehde gave the emergency preparedness report. He said there will be a lockdown drill soon with students in the school. There are new radios for bus/ building communication.

Iditarod concessions

Discussion: Should PTSA continue to coordinate this event next year? Staffing for a coordinator has been lacking as well as a buyer for supplies. Profit ranges from \$300 to \$900 per day. It was unclear what organization would take it over if needed. Janeen Sullivan recalled that the Iditarod Trail Committee may be the rightful owner of the right to the concessions if the PTSA didn't do it. Liz Coler suggested that by a certain date in the fall a person should be designated to coordinate the event or consider relinquishing the event. Robin Johnson suggested that each individual group could be responsible for supplying their own day. Sylvia Matson reminded the group that certain beverage items like coffee needed to be standard. Liz Coler said groups should commit in the fall. Julie Kelso concluded that the consensus was that it would be revisited in the fall with these thoughts in mind.

PTSA Scholarships

Last year, PTSA gave out two scholarships to Beltz graduates of \$500 each. Money was also spent on the Spelling Bee and other activities, leaving \$2000 that Julie hoped could be used for a wider purpose to benefit more students. Perhaps the new principal will be wanting more funding from the PTSA.

Julie asked for input on the amount for this year's scholarships. Robin Johnson shared that not all the other scholarships are available to all students but the PTSA funds are open to all students. Liz Coler suggested that the amounts be used according to applicants available. It was decided that up to \$1500 in two or three \$500 scholarships would be awarded, depending on the pool of applicants. Lori Head, Betsy Brennan, Paula Kennedy and Carl White were appointed to the committee to review scholarships.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Members discussed plans for upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week, which is always the first full week in May. As in years' past, PTSA members will celebrate the week and honor our teachers by providing homemade baked goods and coffee at each school. All school staff will be invited to partake. Various members volunteered to be responsible for advertising the week:

Scanner channel – Lori Head

Ad in Nome Nugget newspaper – Paula Kennedy

Nome-announce – Julie Kelso
Radio spot – Betsy Brennan
NSHC electronic bulletin board – Liz Coler

Member Comments

Robin Johnson suggested the PTSA consider giving mini-grants to teachers to fund activities that will increase parent participation in the schools.

Paula Kennedy expressed concern over student lunches at the elementary school and wondered if PTSA could recommend ways to make the lunches more nutritious. Assistant School District Superintendent, Jon Wehde, indicated that Jenny Martens would be the appropriate person to contact at the district level for advice on how to proceed. Several members at the meeting expressed an interest in this subject and a committee was formed to look into the area. Committee members are: Paula Kennedy, Margaret Thomas, and Allison Wrenn. The committee will meet with Jenny and report back to PTSA.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.