

**Nome PTSA Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2004**

PTSA members present: Shirley Bell, Lori Head, Todd Hindman, Julie Kelso, Urtha Lenharr, Sylvia Matson, Karen Mehl, Barb Nickels, Jeri Ann Tomter, Carl White

Also present: Linda Steiger

CALL TO ORDER Treasurer, Lori Head, convened the meeting at 6:31 PM.

NOMINATIONS/INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS Lori began the meeting by asking for nominations from the floor for vice-president. There were no nominations for vice-president. Barb Nickels was nominated for president, Julie Kelso for secretary and Lori Head for treasurer. The slate of nominees was approved for office as a bloc by a vote of those present.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Newly installed president, Barb Nickels, presented a written report outlining the goals of the PTSA. She stressed that, although the PTSA does hold some fundraising events, this is not the main purpose of the organization. Rather, the PTSA should facilitate communication between parents, teachers, and administrators.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Barb gave some brief highlights from the last school board meeting, including the fact that there are currently teacher and aide vacancies at each school. An additional teacher was hired at the elementary, due to larger than expected enrollment numbers.

LEVELING As a requirement of the Quality Schools Program, our children should be leveled according to their ability. Barb encouraged parents to be proactive in ensuring that their children are being leveled properly.

PTSA MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS Barb reported on the PTSA membership numbers. There are currently fifty-two members of the PTSA. Membership consists of one teacher from Anvil City Science Academy; ten elementary school teachers; one elementary teacher's aide; five junior/senior high school teachers; one preschool teacher; seven administrators and twenty-seven parents.

TREASURER'S REPORT Lori Head explained the main sources of revenue and expense for the PTSA. The Community Calendar fundraiser, Iditarod concessions and Santa's Shop are the three main sources of revenue. Membership dues are not a primary source of revenue, as most of that money is passed on to the national and state organizations. Major expenses consist of scholarship awards and spelling bee costs. In addition, the PTSA has donated money for other school related activities over the years, such as JROTC, as well as to other local non-profits, such as DAWN. Outlays for teacher appreciation week are also funded by the PTSA.

Lori passed out a sheet that detailed financial information beginning with year 2001, up to the present. There was an overall profit in 2001 of approximately \$4,000; profit for 2002 was around \$800, and 2003 saw a loss of nearly \$2,000. Lori then went on to explain the wide disparity in

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financial success among the years. The Community Calendar was last done in 2001, providing most of the profit for that year. This fundraiser was given to other organizations in 2002 and 2003. Expenses for 2002 were covered through the Iditarod concessions and Santa's Shop fundraisers. In 2003, the Santa's Shop fundraiser brought in only half as much as the previous year. Lori attributed this to poor organization. Spelling bee expenses and scholarships were also more for that year.

BY-LAWS Barb stated that the PTSA is currently not in good standing with the state and national organizations, due to the fact the by-laws have not been reviewed within the past five years. The officers will review the by-laws and report back to the general membership regarding any changes.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM Elementary school principal, Carl White, stated that he has not yet received approval from district superintendent, Stan Lujan, to go forward with the elementary breakfast program. PTSA will hold off on recruiting volunteers for the program until approval is obtained. Barb stated that approximately 200 students benefited from the program last year.

IDITAROD CONCESSIONS Barb stated that Bruce Klein from Community Partnership made a request for that organization to handle the concessions for the next Iditarod. Discussion ensued as to whether the PTSA should keep this fundraiser. Barb expressed concern that once this fundraiser is relinquished, we will not be able to get it back should we need it in future years. She pointed out that, depending on the success of our other fundraisers, the PTSA could later decide to give a portion of the proceeds from the concessions to the Community Partnership. The membership passed a motion to keep the Iditarod concession fundraiser.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR Julie explained the Community Calendar fundraiser. The PTSA takes orders for listings on the calendar for birthdays, anniversaries, meeting dates and the like. Listings are 50¢ each and the calendar itself is sold for \$6. Business ads are sold for \$35 and \$60, depending on size. The calendar will be delivered in December. Julie and Barb took orders in the AC entrance this past weekend, and will be doing so again this weekend from 3 – 6 PM. Barb will be handling all the business ads. After this weekend, we will start calling those that placed listings last year who have still not done so this year. Volunteers are welcome to help make the calls, or take orders at AC. Those interested in helping should contact Julie.

Next there was discussion about the photograph that will be used for the calendar. In the past, the senior high school graduating class and the JROTC have been featured. Photos taken by Joy Hewit of elementary students were passed around for consideration. A suggestion was made to use the school-wide elementary photo that was taken on the playground last year. Another suggestion was to use the recent community photograph taken for the DAWN program, whereby community members spelled out the words "Nome" and "Alaska". The "Nome" photograph seemed to be the most popular idea. Julie will look into getting this photo for the calendar.

SPELLING BEE There was a brief discussion of the spelling bee, and the fact that there were no fourth grade participants last year. PTSA needs to make sure someone speaks to those

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children (now in fifth grade) to try to interest them in competing. Todd Hindman and Nanci Tungwenuk are the main organizers of this event, with PTSA members providing support.

CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS Barb emphasized the need for more classroom volunteers at the elementary school. A suggestion was made that the PTSA be proactive in this area and assist teachers in getting the volunteers they desire. The concept of having a “room parent” for each class was offered as a way to organize this effort. There was overall consensus that this was an excellent idea. Julie will work with teachers to identify room parents and begin recruiting volunteers. Anyone interested in being a room parent, volunteering in the classroom, or helping to recruit other volunteers should contact Julie.

D.A.W.N. DONATION Todd Hindman made a request for DAWN funding. A motion to donate \$300 to the DAWN organization was unanimously passed.

SUPPLY LIST Julie brought up the fact that the school supply list published in the Nome Nugget at the start of the school year is not accurate, and wondered what the PTSA could do to help avoid this in the future. Other parents and teachers present strongly agreed that this is a problem that needs to be addressed. Carl White volunteered to work with teachers and make sure that the list is accurate next year.

COMBINED LUNCHESES Sylvia Matson wanted to know how the combining of different grades during lunches at the elementary school was working out. Carl and Urtha both indicated that, although there were some logistic problems at first, it seems to be working out well. Other parents agreed.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

November 17 – Organize Santa Shop
February 16 – Plan Iditarod concessions
May 11 – Decide on scholarships

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.