

PTO General Meeting Minutes 10-21-08

- I. Amy Cutt welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- II. Chair reports – Reminder to all chairs: Please inform Robyn and Patricia of any important information and provide them with forms. They are fielding many phone calls and do not have enough information to answer questions. Thanks.
 - a. Winter Snow Program – Kerry Morgan This year’s program is called “get out and play.” This is an expanded winter sports program. Registration will start on Mon. Oct. 27, 2008. This year no late registrations will be allowed. We will be holding the skiing and snowboarding programs at the Canyons Resort this year. In addition, we will have 15 slots for Nordic skiing at White Pine and 15 slots for ski jumping at the Utah Olympic Park. Packets and registration will be online this year. For additional information go to jrespto.googlepages.com. We need one parent volunteer for both the Nordic program and ski jumping program. If we cannot get a parent volunteer for these programs, we will not have them. Since these facilities are geographically separate from the ski and snowboard venue, we must have a parent volunteer on site in order to provide these programs.
 - b. Masterpieces in Art – Thanks to Brenda and Sara for the new folders. They are much easier to use this year.
 - c. Box tops – Thanks to JoAnn O’Brien for heading up this year’s “Boxtops for Schools” program. Oct. 31st is the date to submit the boxtops. Please trim your labels and send them in to your children’s teachers before Oct. 31.
 - d. The website – Thanks to Ben Ling for creating the JRES PTO web site. The address is jrespto.googlepages.com. We are hoping that this website will become the primary method of communication pertaining to events at JRES.
 - e. Innisbrook Fund Raiser – Amy Cutt reported for Becky Ponich that our sales were down again this year. We had a discussion that this is the second year we have done Innisbrook and both years have had lower sales than the previous Sally Foster Fund Raiser. We are not sure if this is due to the economy or to the product mix. We will be evaluating which vendor to use in future fundraisers later this year. Thanks for all your hard work, Becky. We haven’t done a “Write a Check” push and we may be initiating a “Write a Check” campaign to cover deficits in our budget.
 - f. Book Fair – Thanks to Suzy and her staff for putting on a great book fair this year. Initial reports indicate that sales were way up.
- III. Budget – Julie Eihausen presented our budget. We currently have a budget shortfall of approximately \$2500.00. We are still waiting for final numbers from the Innisbrook Fund Raiser. We made \$1100.00 on the Fall Fun Festival. Wendy is requesting approximately \$300.00 to purchase Halloween supplies for next year’s Spook Alley at end of season prices. We approved this request.

We also voted to release \$2725.00 from the \$15,000.00 restricted Sun Shade fund with the provision that future fundraising efforts will replenish the Sun Shade monies. The replenishment of these monies is a first priority (see animated discussion of grant committee recommendations below). The budget was approved.

IV. Grant Committee – Jon Owen presented various grants from the Grant Committee. The only grants that were denied will be funded through additional grants or other monies, i.e. none of the grants will be unfunded. The following grants were recommended and approved:

- a. Susan Boone, \$225.00 for cooking lessons with reading and math, funding from budgeted funds;
- b. Principal Kuennen, \$800.00 for a 37” digital frame to display images and information, funding from budgeted funds;
- c. First Grade Team, \$318.00 plus shipping for two more sets of Under the Sea non-fiction library, funding from future book fair profits;
- d. Crystal Giles, \$275.10 for word study games, funding from future book fair profits;
- e. First Grade Team, \$845.00 plus shipping for Exploring the Galaxy books, funding from future book fair profits;
- f. J.J. Ehlers, \$2200.00 for digital cameras, the Grant Committee recommended \$3200.00 in order to provide a camera for each classroom with the exception of the 4th grade team as they will receive cameras from the district next year with e-mints. The camera request was very controversial. Many members felt that the cameras could be shared and checked out. Some members wondered if Kindergarten and First Grade classes needed the upgraded cameras. Still others felt that teachers would prefer to use their own personal digital cameras. An important consideration was that the Grant Committee asked the teachers what they felt would be of most benefit to them. The teachers responded that digital cameras for use in the classroom is what they wanted. Honoring the request by the teachers and showing support by the PTO was paramount in approving this grant with the following caveat: \$3200.00 was approved, pending input from each individual teacher to determine if they request a camera for their individual classroom.
- g. An equally animated discussion took place with respect to releasing the restricted Sun Shade funds to facilitate these grants. We had \$15,000.00 restricted to build a Sun Shade Structure. Current projected costs are approximately \$30,000.00. Some members felt that this was too much to spend on the Sun Shade Structure. Many others felt that this was a perfectly acceptable amount to spend on a capital improvement that will last for decades. We are looking at other sources of funding to make up the additional \$15,000.00 needed for this project. It was finally decided that we would release \$2725.00 from the \$15,000.00 restricted funds to permit these grants to be funded. It is hereby stated that the Sun Shade is still a priority and that future fundraising will replenish the \$2725.00 to the restricted funds.

- h. Shawn Kuennen requested \$5490.00 to purchase a Weather Bug Weather Station. This also produced lively discussion. We decided to table this request until the Nov. meeting. We are looking at competing weather stations as well as alternative funding sources.
- V. Principal Kuennen – Shawn brought up the importance of emergency texting. If you send a text into the JRES system, you will be registered to receive emergency texts from JRES. Go to the JRESPTO.googlepages.com website for information on how to register. Shawn will be having a meeting on Oct. 21st to discuss the construction problems and bussing situation in Pine Brook. A PTO member brought up concerns about I-80 closures and vehicles accessing the frontage road in front of JRES. It was recommended that Shawn contact both Summit County and the Utah DOT to restrict access to the frontage roads to local traffic only during I-80 closures. Last year a snowstorm left many children stranded at school because of all the traffic on the frontage roads.
- VI. Other Items – Park City Education Foundation (PCEF) is looking for a JRES liaison. They are also looking for volunteers for the phone-a-thon. If you are interested, please contact the PCEF.
- VII. Teacher Liaison – Liz French presented Shawn Kuennen with a \$50.00 gift certificate to a local restaurant for Principal Appreciation Week. Keep up the good work Shawn, and there might be another gift certificate, ha, ha.

Meeting adjourned.