

**PTA Open Meeting Minutes**  
**October 11, 2011 – Oneka Elementary Media Center**  
**Call to Order 4:31 PM**

**Board Member & District Attendees:** Teresa Dahlem-Principal, Jason Healy-Associate Principal, Kristi Ide-President, Kati Ahrens-Vice President, Mary Jo Rhude-Secretary, Sue Olsen-Fundraising Coordinator, Melissa Tucker-Treasurer, Kim Chapman-School Board Liason, Pete Willcoxon-Executive Director of Business Services, Dr. Michael Lovett-Superintendent.

**PTA Member Attendees:** Jen Durand, Jami Eckerle, Mike Bailey, Nancy Thomas, Ruth Endthoff, Deb Beloyed, Mike Fish, Ryan Dupont, Christy Christensen

**Non-Member Attendees:** Elizabeth Ulmer, Amy Corner, Beth Olsen, Anne Kronebusch, Mary Ellen Schultz

Quorum was reached.

### **Introduction**

**Notes:** PTA Meeting Sign-in sheet, and hand outs/items circulated: Membership forms, Treasurer's Report, September Meeting Minutes, PTO Manager Volunteer Information Directions, Topic idea form and Classroom PTA Parent sign-up sheet.

#### **Dr. Lovett and Kim Chapman: Report on upcoming renewal levy referendum.**

White Bear Lake has a strong educational tradition and rich heritage where the community values education. White Bear Lake measures growth through many ways. Some ways include test scores. Success can be seen in WBL test score results. Average reading growth is 1 year 5 months in grades 1 through 10. For math, the growth increased to 1 year 7 months in the same grades. 96% of ninth graders have passed the MCA writing test. Many students take advanced placement courses, which can save parents across the district over \$1 million a year.

#### **Pete Willcoxon: District Economic Health.**

The School Board works as a cohesive whole and voted unanimously to put levy on Nov. 8 ballot. White Bear Lake has experienced a decline in enrollment in the past years. In a ten-year projection, enrollment will remain stable. The State Budget will be providing less payment through a payment postponement (a total of \$21 million for our district). This money is set up in an IOU and will be recorded as revenue, but will not be received until sometime in the future. District is utilizing ways of fiscal efficiency, including busing and food service. Budget management and fiscal projections aid in budgetary decisions. Partnerships with local businesses (YMCA, Tamarack Nature Center, MacPhail, Hangzhou Foreign Languages School, White Bear Center for the Arts, Vadnais Heights Sports Center) have offered WBL students many opportunities that would not otherwise be available.

Operating Levy Renewal Need: Renewal of 2007 Levy accounts for \$14 million for the district. Accomplishments of previous levy include lowered elementary class size (especially at K and grade 1), middle school level world language options, reduced class size in middle and high school in core classes. Stewardship: Rise in test scores, awarded AA bond rating from Standard and Poor's, ranking us in the top 3%), higher portion of general fund revenue directly into the classroom than neighboring districts, and reduced spending outside the classroom. Levy will not

increase taxes. A successful levy renewal will help maintain current class sizes and programs. An unsuccessful levy will cause a 15% reduction in budget.

**Kim Chapman:** Do not take this levy referendum lightly. Based on the volatile economic market, coupled with 2011 being an off-election year, people need to get out to vote. This levy will not increase taxes.

Question and discussion with speakers.

**Secretary's Report:** Mary Jo Rhude

September 13, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the Minutes – Jen Durand -1st , Mike Bailey- 2nd. Motion passed.

PTO Manager Website Volunteer Directions Overview.

Thank you card sent to Teshome and Zewdie Family for donation.

Thank you card received from Mrs. Briggs' class for book fair.

PTA Classroom Parent sign up form circulated for volunteers.

**Treasurer's Report:** Melissa Tucker

Review of Treasurer's report. Explanation of Balance Sheet and expenditures.

Question about Scholastic News magazine bonus points availability (PTA purchases Scholastic News magazine for all students). School secretary orders these and can be contacted to obtain that information.

Motion to accept the budget: Kati Ahrens-1st, Jason Healy -2nd. Motion passed.

Chip Shoppe Fundraiser: Profit is approximately \$17,000 at this time. No final numbers available, as order processing is being completed.

**President's Report:** Kristi Ide

PTA membership is currently at 43 people.

Form circulated to obtain ideas for upcoming topics and speakers at future PTA meetings.

**Fundraising Coordinator:** Sue Olsen

**Conference Dinner:** Food is needed for Thurs. Oct. 13. Drop off at both locations at 3:00pm.

**Book Fair:** Increase of \$1000 from last year. \$300 already spent for Hugo library. Additional \$2500 will be spent to purchase more books for the Hugo library.

**Savoy's Pizza:** On Tuesdays, if you mention the Hugo and/or Oneka PTA and spend \$15, they will donate \$1 to the PTA.

**Ice Cream Social:** October 19th (6-8pm) at Oneka in conjunction with the Science Fair and Star Lab.

**Fall Festival:** October 28th, from 6-8pm at Oneka. A safe indoor, trick-or-treating atmosphere, including face painting, tattoos, food for sale, Hugo and Oneka promotional items available for purchase, DJ, and a pumpkin carving contest. Volunteers needed for this event. Please contact Kristi Ide.

**Event chair/co-chairs needed!** Waffle Breakfast with Santa/Craft Sale and Spring Carnival need chairs. If people do not volunteer to chair these events, they will be canceled.

**Open Forum:**

**Brain Pop JR:** Amy Corner. Geared for 2nd and 3rd grade. Useful for 1st and 4th grade as

well. An interactive website that encourages students to think and ask questions about various topics. Questions are asked, information is given in reading, math, art, technology, science, etc. Movies (approximately 4 minutes in length) and quizzes focus on getting kids to ask and answer questions and provide great supplemental instruction. Pricing: School Subscription is \$825 and would be available to all classrooms and media center in building. With student access at home, price is \$1,200. Media lab only is \$495. \$125 per classroom. For both campuses, two licenses would most likely be needed. Combining with other schools to purchase a district license may be cost effective over time. Discussion over Accelerated Reader (AR) versus Brain Pop ensued. There is no correlation between these two programs. AR was purchased on a per pupil basis about 2 weeks ago. Walmart Grant Applications to fund Brain Pop Jr. will be completed by Amy Corner. Additional monies funding may include \$500 PTA Technology budget item and other monies secured by Ms. Dahlem.

**Gold Plate Dinner:** Christy Christensen. Possible name and location change to Golden Gala to be held at Manitou Station in White Bear Lake. Feb. 3, 2012 from 5 to 10pm. Looking to attract 150 people, including community members, staff and parents. Local businesses and prior event attendees will be contacted/surveyed for their feeling on location change out of Hugo. Focus will be on technology funding for Hugo and Oneka Elementary Schools.

**NetSmartzkids.org:** Beth Olson. Kid-friendly website for internet safety. Shared with students by librarians at both schools.

Motion to adjourn by Melissa Tucker -1st, Sue Olsen -2nd. Meeting adjourned at 6:19pm.

#### **Upcoming Dates and Events:**

October 13th: PTA Conference Dinner for teachers at both Hugo and Oneka.

October 19th: Science Fair, Star Lab, Ice Cream Social (6-8pm) at Oneka.

October 28th: Fall Festival (6-8pm) at Oneka.

November 8th: Voting Day

**\*\*Next PTA meeting November 15, 2011 at 6:30 pm at Hugo Elementary.\*\***

Respectfully submitted by Mary Jo Rhude.