

**Tahoma Elementary School PTO**  
**September 2024 General Meeting Minutes**  
September 24th, 2024, TES library and Zoom

**Meeting Began:** Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by Liz Karkoski-Gardner

**Attendance:**

In-person: Karin Morea, Alicia Small, Liz Karkoski-Gardner, Cathy McDonald, Autumn Clark, Alicia Small, Patsy Gonzalez, Amy Moore, Stella Hu, Teresa Eccles

On Zoom: Dave Gardner, Greta Huntley, Jake Jeske, Jasmine Stincer, Katie Van Patten, Yuka Kitajima, Yvonne Bir, Jerry Gaston, Amanda Klein, Sophia D

Motion to approve June meeting minutes by Liz Karkoski-Gardner, 2nd Autumn Clark

**New Business:**

- Welcome by Liz Karkoski-Gardner; introduction by board and committee members
- Karin Morea motion to approve the addition of Autumn Clark as a Umpqua bank signer, Teresa Eccles 2nd. No opposed. Approved.

**Principal's Report:** given by Jerry Gaston

- 697 students
  - 21% receive special services
  - 8% MLL
  - 18% qualify for free and reduced lunch
- Judy Kim recently lost her husband
- Link to PTO meeting minutes in Cub News
- 4th grade largest class sizes
- 4 big goals for the year:
  - Raise academic achievement in reading
  - Raise academic achievement in math
  - Increase attendance rates
  - Climate culture - all staff will recommend Tahoma as a great place to work by the end of the year

**Teacher Update:** given by Teresa Eccles

- Communication regarding PTO should flow from staff to Mrs. Eccles and Mr. Gaston
- Attend Mr. Gaston's parent appreciation night!!
- Email was sent to staff for updates
  - Mrs. Brestle says thank you for supplies (toilet paper rolls and baby wipes) and continued support
  - Mrs. Liechty asking for yearbook, last two years especially, for students to read

## **Officer's Reports:**

President: given by Liz Karkoski-Gardner

- Review of parent involvement benefits of PTO

Treasurer: Given by Cathy McDonald

- Review of budget
- Vote to approve budget
- Liz Karkoski-Gardner motion to approve budget; Alicia Small 2nd. No opposed.  
Approved

Fundraising: given by Liz Karkoski-Gardner and Autumn Clark

- Big push to raise the money necessary to complete the auditorium update!
- First event planned for October - Dance-a thon done by Boosterthon (same as Color Run).
  - Intro video played at lunchtime
  - Will take place in the gym
  - October 30th; 6-7pm recommended for K-2 and 7-8pm recommended for 3-5th grade
  - Corporation donation and matching will be available
  - Boosterthon is necessary for this size event; they did lower their fees
- Silent fundraising - make sure to connect your Fred Meyer card to Tahoma PTO; Mabel's Labels, Box Tops
- Ideas for Halloween Boo Gram or Valentine's gram fundraiser

## **Committee Reports**

Yearbook: update given by Karin Morea

- Returning to hard cover
- Ordering more extra yearbooks but still need to remain fiscally responsible
- Pushing the yearbook deadline even harder this year. Discounted price ends 10/31!
- Will have a way for families to know they've purchased one this year.
- Exploring offering 5th grade families a chance to buy a portion of a page as a fundraiser
- Is there a way to get the kids involved more with the yearbook? Is zero hour an option?
- Yearbook cover contest begins in November

Staff Appreciation: update given by Karin Morea

- Two new committee members:
  - Brittany Wittman
  - Emma Kowalinski
- First one coming up in October, sign up to come

Popcorn: given by Patsy Gonzalez

- First popcorn Friday was a success
- Do a little under 700 bags and give extra to EEP and staff

- Thank you volunteers!
- Popcorn is vegan and gluten free

Book Fair: update given by Alicia Small

- Book fair is tentatively scheduled November 14-22nd
- Spoke with specialist teachers about options of shopping during specialist time or use the empty portable and a sign up for time slots for each class; need to see if the space is big enough

Carnival update: given by Liz Karkoski-Gardner

- No update

Roaring Readers: given by Greta Huntley

- We've started!
- Have a parent interested in distributing prizes

Watch Dogs: given by Brooke Martinson

- No update

Movie Night: given by Dave Gardner

- License updated
- 3 movies this year - November, Feb and April
- 5th grade only movie planned for end of year

Talent Show: given by Liz Karkoski-Gardner

- Patsy Gonzalez interested in helping
- Need committee

Dance update: given by Autumn Clark

- Tentatively scheduled for January
- Amy Moore interested in helping
- Need to smooth out point of purchase items

Social Media: given by Katie Van Patten

- Katie looking to start an instagram page

Membership update: given by Cathy McDonald

- We're hoping everyone is liking the new platform
- You can send in a check if you don't want to pay online
- Paypal sends a receipt to your email; Cathy will email those who pay by check

Spirit Wear: given by Cathy McDonald

- Will be on the website and available and open house

Art Docent: given by Cathy McDonald

- Run by Molly Christenson
- Will be running up soon; sign up online by tomorrow

**Next Meeting:** tentatively scheduled Wednesday, November 20th at 7:00 pm

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:10 pm

Minutes compiled by Karin Morea, PTO Secretary