

## University Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes September 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Shannon Starks.

I. The Minutes for the May 8, 2012 meeting were approved with a spelling change.

II. Treasurer's Report—Kerry McGarry reported that the new budget has been approved and is ready to go for the school year. Since less money was taken in last year, there is less money for the literacy program, and no money for professional development and playground expenses this academic year. Meet the Teacher event sales of t-shirts was outstanding, with \$580 taken in.

### III. Old Business

- a. Bylaws—Shannon Starks reported that the bylaws of the PTO are available to all members of the PTO, and copies were distributed to those in attendance. The PTO is a nonprofit corporation that supports educational programs, parental involvement, and promotes the sense of community at University Elementary.
- b. 2012 Learning Festival—Shannon Starks reported that the Learning Festival was very successful in May, and that the new online volunteer registration form was a huge success and will be used again next year.
- c. Meet the Teacher/Welcome Reception—Jenni Murer reported that the Meet the Teacher/Welcome Reception was a combined event for the first time this year. It was extremely well-attended, and Jenni asked for suggestions on how to improve the event to make it more conducive to conversation and fostering a sense of community with the PTO. Many suggestions were given, including the implementation of a New Parent Orientation at the end of the school year or before the start of the school year to help new parents get involved with the school and have a forum to ask questions. Another suggestion was to move the reception to the cafeteria to allow for more room for conversation at the same time as the Meet the Teacher event. It was also suggested that perhaps monthly “meet and greet” events would be more advantageous. A parent also suggested that in addition, it would be helpful to have a FAQ section on the PTO website to aid new parents in this transition.
- d. Classroom Visits—Shannon Starks reported that the classroom visits and the distribution of volunteer forms had a spectacular response from parents willing to volunteer for school events this year.

### IV. New Business

- a. Skate Nights—Jennifer Gentry reported that the first University Elementary Skate Night at Western Skateland will be on Tuesday, September 25 from 6:30 to 8:30. The PTO receives \$1.25 for every participating skater. Skate Nights will take place on the fourth Tuesday of every month, which will work well since the late start to school is on Wednesday, allowing most students to skate and sleep in the next day!
- b. Fall Campaign & U's News—Katie Herron reported that the Fall Campaign will take place in late September through late October, for approximately 5 weeks. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the PTO. Parents, grandparents, and friends of the school are encouraged to give a donation to support literacy programs, professional development for teachers, and other programs that make University Elementary a great place for our kids to learn. No sales by students is ever done in the Fall Campaign, and each participating student (who returns the form, whether or not they donate) will receive a small prize and each participating classroom will enjoy the beautiful fall weather at an extra recess period.
- c. Pizza Supper and Bulletin Board—Michelle Burns reported that the plans for the Pizza Supper are coming along well, and that event will take place on October 10, 2012. Pizza will be available for purchase, and parents are encouraged to donate dessert items to be packaged in \$.50 increments for fundraising for PTO support of the school. It was suggested that a table be set up to allow parents to turn in Fall Campaign forms and also turn in Box Tops at the Pizza Supper. The Bulletin Board will also be redesigned.
- d. Campbell's, Box-Tops, Pizza X—Stacy Stiening reported that she will be visiting classrooms to collect box tops each month and will be facilitating a friendly competition between classrooms for the most box tops collected. Each month an announcement will be made to the school of the winning classroom, and it was suggested that a “Box Tops Winner” sign be placed on the winning classroom for the month.

- e. Website—Ruth Eberle demonstrated a beta version of the PTO website, which nicely complements the school website. She asked for suggestions/ideas in order to get the site up and running and to make sure it contains information that parents really want to know. It was suggested that the Google calendar that Jodee Ellett has been made available so that parents could download it to their own computers or personal electronic devices. It was also suggested that instead of personal email addresses, that the [universitypto@gmail.com](mailto:universitypto@gmail.com) be the contact email for the PTO.
- f. SCRIP—Shannon Starks reported that the SCRIP program needs a chairperson, and some ideas for simplifying the process were suggested. If any parent is willing to chair the SCRIPS program, please contact Shannon Starks.

V. Principal's Report—Michi McClaine reported that the new building security measures are up and running and going smoothly. Teachers are thrilled to have their i-Pads, and students at certain grade levels will also be using i-Pads at school later this academic year. This year MCCSC is implementing growth-based assessment standards for Math, in the same format as it is being done for Language Arts. Students' growth in a benchmarked "power standard" or essential learning, will be readily seen in this format. In this model, a "3" is the target level for each standard, and students will work toward that goal for the entire academic year.

VI. Comments for the Good of UES: Gladys Newsom introduced the art fundraiser, which allows her to have a budget for art items throughout the academic year. This fundraiser is very popular, especially since original student artwork is used to decorate items such as stationary, mugs, keychains, etc., and all items arrive in time for holiday gift-giving. Ms. Newsom also asked for donations of paper bags, cereal boxes and cracker boxes for student art projects.

PTO Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm