

**Gunnison Valley PTA
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2011**

Meeting began: 6:35 PM

Those in attendance: Tara Heger, Maribeth Privette, Melinda Zummach, Kristen Seymour, Kelly Downum, Annie Yoder, Rita Merrigan, Sara Bergstrom, and Brooke Ash.

I. Tara Heger, President, started the meeting by welcoming everyone. We then went around the table and introduced ourselves.

II. Tara stated that PTA will continue to incorporate Lake School into more of our activities. Holding meetings at Lake is one attempt to reach out to preschool and kindergarten parents.

III. Rita Merrigan discussed her plans for Spanish Club this year.

- A. Her intention is to hold Spanish Club in the early spring, approximately February - May 5, 2012, with a six week long session.
- B. Spanish Club will be open to 1st - 5th grade students. Kindergarten students are not included due to transportation issues. (An exception to this is if a kindergarten parent wishes to volunteer to help with the Club. In this case, their student would be welcome.)
- C. Rita intends to send a survey home to parents, requesting feedback on the day of the week to hold Spanish Club.

IV. Annie Yoder briefly talked about PTA Reflections.

- A. Application forms, a consent form, and a cover sheet have already been sent home in the Friday folders.
- B. November 4 is the local deadline for entries to be turned into the GES office. December 2 is the state deadline.
- C. Annie will send a copy of these forms to translationservices@gunnisonschools.net for spanish speaking students. These forms will then be sent to Rita Merrigan to send out.
- D. A budget for this year's Reflections program was requested. Sara Bergstrom stated that last year PTA spent \$273 on this program, and that this amount could also be spent this year.

V. Pops and Pumpkins was discussed.

- A. Rita Merrigan ran this program last year, and agreed to organize the event this year as well, if no one else was interested.

- B. She iterated that this program was not just about “Pops” but was a “Family” activity. Rita stated that this event was about fun, and was not a money-maker for PTA. (However, PTA does need to cover its costs.)
- C. Friday, October 28 from 6 - 8 PM was set as the tentative date for this event. Rita will check with Monica Hutson to be sure the Commons is available that evening.
- D. The Motor family has moved from the area, and will no longer be providing their “Pumpkin Patch” from which PTA has obtained its pumpkins the last several years. Bonnie Strickland and Debbie Harmon were offered as potential candidates for helping obtain the pumpkins this year.
- E. Kristen Seymour suggested checking with Oriental Trading Company to purchase carving kits at a reduced price. (In years past, they had been purchased from Walmart.)
- F. Rita requested volunteers for this program. Please email rmerrigan@gunnisonschools.net. She will also check with Student Leadership Club to see if they are interested in helping with this event.

VI. Tara Heger spoke about Yearbooks.

- A. This year’s yearbooks will be put together by Cindy McKee and her class at the Middle School.
- B. Those present voted unanimously to allow Cindy McKee to also organize the presale and sale of the yearbooks.
- C. Tara questioned whether PTA was interested in having the yearbooks in color or black and white. Color would necessitate a higher cost, when last year’s yearbook was already \$17 in B/W. All those present agreed to keep the yearbook in B/W in an attempt to keep it as affordable as possible. (Tara noted that PTA does not make money on yearbooks, but offers them as a service to our students.)

VII. Tara advised those present of the status of Mario’s Nights.

- A. Mario’s Restaurant will offer a free appetizer and 10% of a meal’s proceeds to go to PTA on select days, one each month.
- B. These dates are highlighted on the school calendar and a coupon will be sent home in the previous week’s Friday folders.
- C. Tara will check on whether extra coupons can be made available to place outside the office, in the event that a coupon is lost or not received by a student.

VIII. Tara briefly discussed the annual fundraiser.

- A. The first day of selling will be Oct. 7., with the deadline for sales Oct. 24.
- B. Fundraiser packets will arrive at GES approximately 2 weeks prior to this date. When they arrive, Tara requested help in distributing them to students via teachers. She will contact PTA when they arrive.

IX. Kristen Seymour stated that her store, Junebugs, would be willing to stock GES t-shirts and hoodies.

- A. Annie Yoder and Sara Bergstrom will organize current inventory and deliver appropriate amounts to Junebugs next weekend.

X. The GES Bookfair was discussed.

- A. In years past, the GES Bookfair was organized and run by Ms. Campbell, the school librarian. Her position was reformed to include two library aides instead of a librarian this year. Because of this, the current aides are unable to spend the hours to organize and run the Bookfair.
- B. Tara Heger had spoken with Doug Tredway, Principle of GMS, to determine the amount of work PTA would have to invest to take over the job. Mr. Tredway suggested that the work would involve 1 1/2 weeks of full-time work, with the addition of evening work until 5pm during the fair.
- C. Tara requested PTA vote on whether we would be interested in taking on this event. Those present agreed that PTA would NOT take over this event, due to extreme nature of the time it would take to organize and run.
- D. Kelly Downum agreed to talk to Lynae, Director of Tenderfoot, to determine how they run a similiar booksale.
- E. Brooke Ash will research whether a Usborne representative would consider holding their own sale in lieu of the traditional booksale.
- F. It was also suggested that booksales, offered by individual teachers in the past, without the "store" setting, might be an option to consider.

XI. Tara asked whether PTA was interested in helping GES purchase recycling containers for the school.

- A. Tara was approached by Sally Hensley, Principle of GES, who is trying to purchase recycling containers for the school. The cost would be approximately \$500 total.
- B. Those present voted on the request. Kristen Seymour moved that PTA NOT give money toward this cause. Maribeth Privette seconded the motion. It was agreed that PTA would NOT give money toward this cause with the reason being that PTA's focus is on programming and not equipment. Last year's request for money to support the GES climbing wall was referenced.

XII. Tara updated PTA on the status of Box-Tops for Education.

- A. Box Top monies have traditionally come to PTA, to be spent at our discretion.
- B. Ms. Westbay, who volunteers her time to cut and send in the box-tops, has requested that monies now be split between GES and GMS.
- C. Tara has asked to be included on any meeting between Ms. Westbay and the middle school discussing this issue. The concern is that GES parents' box-tops would be going to the middle school.
- D. It was suggested that there be TWO drop points for box-tops, one in GES and one in GMS. An additional box-top volunteer may need to be added if this becomes too big of a task.
- E. Maribeth Privette reminded PTA that two years ago, PTA gave GMS \$1000 (all of the box-top money for that year) to use for the Taylor Challenge.

F. It was suggested that a Box-Top flyer be sent home to parents reminding them of this program.

XIII. Jan Badgely, who publishes Hometown Happenings, sent a asking whether PTA wanted to sponsor the "Star Student" article in her paper again this year.

- A. She requested \$300 to sponsor this article for the year.
- B. PTA voted. Brooke Ash moved to continue to support this cause. Melinda Zummach seconded the motion. It was determined that PTA WOULD sponsor this article.
- C. Kristen Seymour will contact Jan Badgley and pay for the sponsorship.

XIV. Kristen Seymour and Brooke Ash discussed their Lego Club idea.

- A. Kristen and Brooke are trying to start a Lego Club either before or after school, sometime this fall. They discussed having a 6 - 8 week session, one day per week, in which students could come and participate in lego-building events such as creativity challenges and themed builds.
- B. They requested a PTA letterhead to send along with a letter to Legoland, in which they would request a donation of legos and/or kits.
- C. Tara suggested that they charge \$10 per child for the club, as it helped to insure attendance. The cost would also help to cover the cost of a snack.
- D. Annie Yoder will contact a friend who used to work for Bricks for Kids, to see if the company would be willing to make a donation of legos as well. She will email Kristen and Brooke with the result.

XV. Maribeth Privette spoke about Spirit Day.

- A. The first Spirit Day is September 16.
- B. Kelly Downum agreed to meet Maribeth at Lake School to learn the ropes. Maribeth will count at GES.
- C. In the past, K-5th grade has been included. Kelly questioned whether the preschool classes could be included as well. She will look into the feasibility, after counting the Kindergarten on Friday.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.