

## Minutes of the February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 PTA Meeting

### Tesago Elementary School Shenendehowa Central School District

The meeting commenced at 7:07pm in the Tesago library and the following people were in attendance:

Julie Plumadore	Kristen Kuhn	Cathie Smith	Susan Flint	Janet Grey	Beth Silaika
Greg Pace	Samantha Yattaw	Darlene Kern	Sherrill Brown	Kate Pierce	Margaret Matocha
David Bass	Katie O'Brien	Fran Matson	Amy Morelli	Vidia Wray	Kathleen McCarty
April Douglas	Tope Akinyeni	Francis Urijnen	Allison Bashkoff	Stephanie Reilly Dobo	

**Items discussed:**

<p><b>Janet Grey</b> <i>Board of Education</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>MS LOTE &amp; Technology Reconfiguration</u> – both programs are going well.</li> <li>• <u>Freshman Academy</u> – This program, which teaches things such as oral presentation skills study skills and other thing kids will find useful in high school, has been very well received. They plan to expand it to include more students next year and add a few more days without any budget implications.</li> <li>• <u>12<sup>th</sup> Grade Alt. Ed. Program</u> – this program for kids at risk of dropout was approved.</li> <li>• <u>Honors Component in Irish Lit</u> – this was approved for next year.</li> <li>• The board has also had recent presentations on the Response to Intervention, Professional Learning Communities and the Continuum of Services.</li> <li>• <u>Safe Pathways to School</u> – the project and grant funding was approved. Work on the trails will start in the spring.</li> <li>• <u>Budget</u> – Dr. Robinson has been meeting with legislators to voice his concerns about the proposed budget. We are looking at a potential shortfall of over \$9M. Even with the contingency budget we would still come in more than \$5M short of funds. They are discussing the implications of this. They are trying to not cut any programs completely, but rather scale back parts of programs. There may have to be staff reductions. The budget problems make it more important than ever to get out and vote this year. The Board needs to present a budget by March 17<sup>th</sup>, but they may not have the final numbers from the state yet. This makes the planning process extremely difficult.</li> <li>• <u>State Comptrollers Audit</u> – Our district was one of only 11 districts in the state that rated positively for the well-designed operating system of financial controls that we have in place. This audit took over two months to complete.</li> <li>• <u>Special Education Quality Review Committee</u> – they will be presenting their findings and action plan at the Board meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. They are developing a new continuum of services for all kids.</li> <li>• <u>Next Board meeting</u> - is February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00pm in the Gowana Library.</li> <li>• <u>Pool</u> – the construction is almost completed. All that is left is some outside site work.</li> <li>• <u>High School Summer Projects</u> – The boilers, roof and security cameras are all scheduled for work this summer.</li> <li>• <u>Elementary School Projects</u> – Several schools are scheduled to have their canopies redone.</li> <li>• <u>Track and Football Field</u> – This project will be bid on February 10<sup>th</sup> and should be ready for Board approval on February 24<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• <u>Community Conversations with Dr. Robinson</u> – these will be held on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Arongen library, on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in Cheryl's Lodge, and on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the High School West cafeteria.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Julie Plumadore</b> <b>Kristen Kuhn</b> <i>Co-Presidents</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Founders Day Dinner</u> – This will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. It is \$28 per person (award winners are free) at Michaels. Winners of the Honorary Life Membership award, which is recognized at this event, will be announced at the March PTA meeting.</li> <li>• <u>April PTA meeting</u> – the date has been changed to April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.</li> <li>• <u>PTA Elections</u> – This is the final year that the current Executive Committee members will be in office. If you are interested in a position on the board or any of the committees for next year please let Julie know as soon as possible. We will be voting in new officers at the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Greg Pace</b> <i>Principal</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Inauguration</u> – Parts of the presidential inauguration were shown to the kids on election day. They were very attentive and interested in the program.</li> <li>• <u>Exercise</u> – The “daily dozen” continues with each teacher trying to incorporate twelve minutes of exercise into the daily curriculum.</li> <li>• <u>February Break</u> – This will be 2/16 – 2/20.</li> <li>• <u>Best Assembly</u> – The Box Tops continue to be a huge hit. The teachers are having a lot of fun with it and the trophy has on occasion “disappeared” from one classroom or another as the competition heats up.</li> <li>• <u>Teacher Training</u> – The teachers will be attending PLC in-house training during the next two weeks.</li> <li>• <u>Almost March Madness</u> – The teachers are all practicing their moves and cheer routines for this big event. Teams are choosing names (Tesago Orange Crush, Okte Buccaneers, Arongen Eagles, Shatekon Sharks) and several even have mascots.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cathie Smith</b> <i>VP of Academics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Lego League</u> - We have purchased 24 Lego kits. The kids have started working on their designs and they will start building at the meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• <u>Discovery</u> – This starts on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and an informational packet will be coming home soon. We have several new classes this year. We are looking for chaperones. Please contact Cathie if you can help out.</li> <li>• <u>Scholarships</u> – March 6<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to apply. We have two scholarships for high school seniors who went to Tesago. They are \$750 each.</li> <li>• <u>PARP</u> – Library night is February 24<sup>th</sup>. There will be food this year as well as games and the window scavenger hunt. The Storycrafters program was very successful. The Battle of the Books will be an after school event on March 26<sup>th</sup>. It will be a kids vs. parents book trivia contest.</li> <li>• <u>Arts in Education</u> – (Stephanie Reilly Dobo) Tom McCabe worked with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade last week and it went well. Grades 1 and 2 went to the Magic Treehouse musical at Proctors last Friday. There will be more writing residency programs coming up. On February 25<sup>th</sup> the Lake George Opera will be coming into the school for all grades. We have 24 programs on the schedule for this year and our dollars have gone far.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Beth Hart</b> <i>VP Non-Academics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Almost March Madness</u> - This will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can be picked up on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 –8:00pm in the school lobby. If not picked up we will send them home with the kids. You must have a ticket to get in the door – no exceptions. Tesago will have a specific section in the bleachers. This is not a drop-off event. Parents need to watch their kids closely. The doors will open at 5:15 and food will be sold.</li> <li>• <u>Spring Fundraiser</u> – This art-based fundraiser will be going on from March 15<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. The kids have all made drawings in art class and they will be screened onto different items that the parents can purchase.</li> <li>• <u>Spring Carnival</u> – It will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The DJ and games are reserved. We are</li> </ul>

	<p>looking for volunteers to help with this event. Please e-mail Beth or Julie if you can help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Non-academic Committees</u> – Please let Beth know if you are interested in taking part in any of these for the 2009-2010 school year.</li> <li>• <u>Box Tops</u> – (Margaret Matocha) We brought in \$278 in one month – great job everyone! We just had a check for \$1129 come in from the last batch we submitted. We expect to earn almost \$2,000 by the end of the year. The cut-off for this year’s earnings is February 13<sup>th</sup>. But keep sending them in after that, as they will roll over to next year. Classes will continue to get awards for the bringing in the most Box Tops in any given month.</li> <li>• <u>Campbells Labels</u> – (Vidia Wray) We received over 620 labels in one month – way to go! We have earned over 3,000 points and have used some of these points to purchase additional Legos for the Lego League.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Moving Up Ceremony and DARE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade moving up committee came to the meeting with a request for an additional \$750 in funding from the PTA. The current budget is \$750 for 106 students. Last year the budget was the same for only 53 students. There is currently no money in the budget for DARE. (See detailed request attached)</li> <li>• Julie indicated that we currently have a surplus of around \$3900 in the budget over our estimate for the year. We could certainly give some additional money to this event and still stay within budget. She also mentioned that \$750 was budgeted because that had been the amount used for several years, during which the number of students had fluctuated greatly.</li> <li>• Questions were raised as to what exactly the money would be used for and several people suggested that a detailed budget plan would be helpful in order for the PTA to decide how much in additional funding would be appropriate. There were concerns that with the current Shenendehowa district budget problems we would need to ration our money very carefully in order to continue offering Arts in Education programs to our students in the upcoming year(s).</li> <li>• Others suggested that the committee reach out to some of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents who may have businesses that could donate gifts for the bag. (Beth Silaika offered to assist with this.)</li> <li>• The idea of having a 5<sup>th</sup> grade movie night was discussed. One option would be to have a movie night open to only 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Another option would be to have a movie night open to all, in which the 5<sup>th</sup> graders could work the event and all money earned would go to the Moving Up Ceremony.</li> <li>• The committee representatives were asked to formulate a more detailed budget, reach out to determine how much they can get donated from parents and the community, and then come back to the PTA with a final request for additional funding if needed. The PTA would then vote on the change in the budget.</li> </ul>

**The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by:**

Susan Flint  
 Tesago PTA Secretary