

**Florence Community PTA
General Membership Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Siuslaw Elementary School Library**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Diane McCalmont at 4:05pm and introductions were made. Sixteen members and two guests were in attendance; a quorum was present.

Financial Report

Current fund balance of \$11,757.09. Recent expenditures included scholarship, teacher grants, back to school reimbursements and dues to state. Diane noted we are still receiving eScrip regular payments through October, then will receive approximately \$2,000 per quarter through June. Alternative ways to support Florence PTA include signing up with Fred Meyer for their Community Rewards program. This program paid out ~\$170 last quarter and we would like to see that increase. There is no cost to participate; simply register your Fred Meyer Rewards card and designate Florence PTA as the nonprofit you wish to support. Fred Meyer then donates a portion of sales to us.

Correspondence PTA was thanked for music support for Room 13 from Deb Dietrich.

Guest Speaker

Bou Kilgore and Steve Moser spoke about the SHS ASPIRE program (Access to Student assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone). ASPIRE is available for both Middle School and High School students to help them look at post-high school options, while there is still time to prepare for those options, i.e. many scholarship applications are due before graduation. Students are assisted in looking at 2 and 4 year school choices, trade and vocational schools, and financial help available, including help beyond just tuition. More volunteers are needed for the program and training is provided. There are currently 160 students needing mentors and only 15 adult volunteers. Time commitment can be as little as 1 hour/week and businesses can sponsor their employees to be mentors by allowing employees to volunteer during work hours. Volunteers may meet with students weekly, help with completing financial aid forms, SAT preparation, college tours, and college representative visits here. ASPIRE started ~8 years ago with a goal of reaching those students who may not have considered themselves college-bound and of encouraging life-long learning. Speakers noted that having a specific plan for beyond HS increases graduation rates.

Committee Reports

- **Box Tops:** Alice Burns reported there will be a Civil War Challenge at the MS during November.
- **Labels for Education:** Button Watkins reported a coloring contest is available for students, due Nov 16.
- **Membership:** Diane reported the PTA has 66 members currently, with a goal of 150 members by March 1 to receive an award. A competition between schools is planned to boost membership. It was noted that dues payments are not a fundraiser for Florence PTA; we fundraise for specific projects as needed. Diane explained that of the \$11 dues collected, \$7.25 goes to the state PTA, \$1.50 goes to national PTA, and \$2.25 stays locally. Florence PTA receives good value from state and national PTA via their support of us. Diane will create a pie chart of the dues breakdown for the next newsletter, explaining the training and support we receive from state/national.

Old Business

- **Fun Run/Fall Fitness Fair, November 21st, 10am-2pm, SMS** Alice has contacted those involved last year and has some commitments already. The Fair will include a Fun Run beforehand; a joint benefit for Florence PTA and Siuslaw Athletic Booster Club. Snacks will be available at the Fair, donations will be accepted, fitness equipment will be purchased for advertising and to give away, businesses who would like to have a booth (for safety, education, fitness, etc.; no selling) at the Fair are encouraged to contact Alice, 541-997-8241.

New Business

- **2015-2016 Teacher/Staff Grants:** The grant committee received 4 applications, denied one (not a PTA member), and made the following recommendations:
 - \$250 for Civil War Field Trip, PTA gift (approved)
 - \$135 for iPad minis and case (approved)
 - \$250 for marching shoes (approved)Diane will add a checkbox for PTA member to the grant request form.
- **AmazonSmile:** Diane encouraged everyone who shops with Amazon to register at AmazonSmile, www.smile.amazon.com, and select Florence Community PTA. AmazonSmile will donate .05% of purchases to us, paid on a quarterly basis. There is no cost to register and people can support PTA every time they shop.
- **Famous First Announcements:** Diane announced the recipients of the Famous First recognition; all receive a \$5 gift card to Subway. SES—Teacher Rachel Henry, Staff Char Catalfamo, Parent Adria Morrow; SMS—Teacher Heather Wiggins, Staff Alice Burns; SHS—Teacher Gina Castro-Brandt, Parent Shannon Cook; SSD—Admin Andy Marohl, School Board Paul Burns, Community Member Mary DeCeault.
- **Door Prize Drawing:** Steve Moser

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm. The next meeting will be November 17th, at 4:00pm.

Submitted,

Susy Lacer, Florence PTA Secretary