

**Present:** Jessica Rzeszotarski, Bob Rafferty, Candy Burchett, Kim North, Sonja Olson, Liz Henglein, Frank Henglein, Jeanne Brooks, Valerie Simpson, Angela Duong, Patti Goslin, Lynette Albright, Christine Molluso, Amy Agan, Jennifer Longtin, Ralph Rothacker, Bob Speck, Betty Hanson, Sue Ciffaratta, Keith Laferriere, Linda Laferriere, Laura Foster, Helen Roos, Jackie Ballinger

*The meeting in the Stevens Library was called to order at 7:00 pm by Amy Aldrich*

**Presidents Report – Amy Aldrich**

**Welcome and Introduction of Attendees**

**Approval of Minutes**

- June Meeting Minutes were distributed and reviewed.
- Motion to approve minutes made, seconded and passed.

**PTA Update**

- Review of the PTA vision which will also appear in the newsletters going home this week.
- Thank You -
  - To current program chairs and volunteers and for future participation as well
  - Cathy Todd for her leadership last year
  - Tricia LeTendre and Suzanne DeVito for organizing the welcome back breakfast
  - Amy Agan for getting the homeroom parents in place
- We still have a few open chair positions: The Book Exchange  
PJ Party  
DARE/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Party  
Family Fun Night  
Holiday Shop  
Hannaford Dollars Committee
- The new curtain has been hung over the summer in the gymnasium – it is up and looks great!
- Request from Mrs. Hay – The nurses office is in need of some supplies – in particular socks and underwear (both genders, but especially little girls).
- Newsletter Info – Colleen Grabb is editing our newsletter and the deadline for submitting is by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.
- School Pictures will be held on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Helen Roos is organizing.
- The Fall Fundraiser is getting ready to go out (more on that later from Kim North) and the Curiosity Shop is coming together and being organized by Helen Roos.
- Odyssey of the Mind – Kelly Johnson is again organizing a team and will be holding an informational meeting in October. Information concerning the meeting will go home via backpack mail.

**Upcoming Events**

- Fall Fundraiser Kick-Off September 28<sup>th</sup>
- School Pictures September 30<sup>th</sup>
- Curiosity Shop Starts October 7<sup>th</sup>

### **Principal's Report – Ralph Rothacker**

- The curtain was put in place over the summer after a long process of raising over \$20,000, getting a bid drawn up, sending the project out to bid and finally with the installation. Many people donated both time and money to this project and we thank them for that.
- One project worked on over the summer was the reduction of the noise level in the cafeteria by installing soundproofing material in the bays in the ceiling. The installation of these tiles has not only reduced the noise level but also ended up increasing the brightness of the room because of their closer proximity to the light fixtures.
- The State has revamped their testing schedules and now will be holding the various state tests in April and May. A new schedule will be sent out because it now differs from the one sent home in June. This creates some new challenges because curriculum needs to now be reworked to coincide with the timing of the test, there is less time to deal with making up missed tests and more than likely the results will no longer be available when we are placing students for the following year.
- The School News Notifier has been expanded so that information can be sent out that is school specific as well as district wide. So each school will have the capability to send out important messages that pertain solely to that building, whereas before it was used only for district wide notifications. It also has the capability to send text messages to your cell phone to eliminate the need to be at a computer to receive the information. This is an excellent tool for communications and all are encouraged to sign up. The icon appears on the home page for the district – [www.bhbl.org](http://www.bhbl.org) – and you can sign up there.

### **Teacher's Report – Betty Hanson and Sue Ciffaratta**

- Thank you for the Welcome Back Breakfast – it was enjoyed by all and for funding the assembly held today!
- Some teachers were wondering about the Arts and Enrichment funding of The Scotia-Glenville Traveling Museum visits this year – Jackie Ballinger responds – each class is allotted one presentation this year with the exception of the kindergarten classes which will get two. There is some flexibility within the budget so if a class has a certain presentation they would like to have they can bring it to the attention of the A&E committee and if the budget allows, we would certainly fund it.

### **Building Council – Jackie Ballinger/Ralph Rothacker**

- The Building Council is a shared decision making group made up of principals, support staff, teachers and 3 PTA representatives. Basically they work together to address various concerns of anything having to do with Stevens in hopes of making it a better place.
- One major topic of conversation had to do with helping kids to learn how to handle conflict on their own. Various programs are being looked into that would address this concern. Many children have voiced that they would like to be able to handle conflict or at least try to handle it before involving an adult.
- A new program called Respect 360 is going to be instituted this year and is aimed at increasing the overall respect level not just in the school environment, but at home and in the community as well.

- The subject of textbooks was also raised by a teacher who was informed that because of the limited textbook budget, there would not be funds available. The budget was decreased due to budget cuts, but we also use a great deal of that money to fund the agendas that students in grades 1-5 all receive.
  - A point was brought up that if we could find a different way of funding these agendas; we could free up some textbook money and hopefully update some of our outdated texts in the next years.
  - Jackie Ballinger looked into how other districts handle the purchasing of agendas and some have the parents pay, some fundraise and in some districts the PTA is able to pay for them. It costs the school \$3000 to pay for them.
    - A motion is made to form a committee to look into a way the PTA could either supplement or fund the purchase of the agendas at Stevens.
    - The motion is seconded and passed. Jackie Ballinger will head a committee to look into this – anyone interested should contact her.

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| <i><b>Officers Reports</b></i> |
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**Treasurer’s Report – Bob Rafferty**

- We are slated to run approximately 45 programs through our budget of \$53,065. A reminder to chairpersons to try to remain within their budgets and a reminder to all that we really need to meet our fundraising goals!
- It is also very important to turn in receipts in a timely fashion so that the budget can balance and be up to date. Some items last year carried over and the budgets for those programs now seemingly have already been utilized. So, please turn in checks and receipts as soon as possible!
- We currently have \$13,422.02 in savings and \$8,847.75 in checking. We also still have an outstanding Arts and Enrichment bill that is being sorted out!

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| <i><b>Committee Reports</b></i> |
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**Kim North – Fall Fundraiser**

- The Fall Fundraiser this year is a catalog sales program featuring one catalog with a variety of items including pottery, wrapping papers, candy, paper goods and other knick knock items. There is also an additional catalog featuring jewelry.
- The catalog will go home with the kids the week of September 28<sup>th</sup> and are due back October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Delivery of the ordered items will be the week prior to Thanksgiving so everyone will have their orders in time for the holidays.
- Another fundraiser in place this year is the Capri Sun Pouch recycling program. A bin will be in place in the cafeteria for kids to place their pouches in and the school will receive monies based on the number of pouches turned in. Any drink pouch counts, it does not have to be the Capri Sun brand and empty pouches can be sent in from home to be turned in as well.

***School Board Report – Bob Speck***

- Everyone is encouraged to utilize this years school calendar as it is extremely complete this year as far as school activities and events being listed on it.
- We had a very exciting opening to the school year and are looking forward to a great year, while at the same time understanding that we are setting up for another difficult year financially.
- The Board continues to look at class size and work on ways to balance them keeping in mind the numbers fluctuate year to year overall and within each building. There are approximately 3400 students in the district this year with 483 at Stevens.
- The Board toured the schools last week to look at needs within the buildings as they consider where to spend monies obtained through the bond issue. Stevens was noted for needing two new boilers, addressing the traffic pattern of the busses and cars and for needing a new floor in the gymnasium.
- The Hostetter Building is still being looked at and more than likely will be deemed “unusable” due asbestos issues and the costs related to cleaning that up.

**Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup>**

***Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm***

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Submitted by Jessica Rzeszotarski  
Stevens PTA Secretary