

Snoqualmie Valley PTSA Council 2.18
~ Minutes of the General Membership Meeting ~
April 20, 2009, School District Office

For list of attendees, see [Sign-in sheet](#) that follows these minutes.

I. Welcomes & Introductions

- A. Cathy welcomed all in attendance.
- B. No introductions were required as there were no unfamiliar faces at the meeting.

II. Review & Approve minutes from January's General Meeting

- A. Laurie Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes from our 01/27/09 GM. This motion was seconded and approved.
- B. **January GM minutes moved into council secretary file.**

III. Treasurer's Report

- A. Alice presented the **Monthly Treasurer's Report for April 2009**.
- B. Reviewed Projected Budget for 2009-2010; no need for membership approval as the amount of change is \$48.87.

IV. President's Report

- A. 2009-2010 Budgets are in-work:
 - 1. Local unit PTSA budgets for the coming years need to consider VVFE contributions.
 - 2. Please **keep a line item for "Bond Support"**, esp. as current M&O Levy is expiring.
- B. Calendars, Officers, Meetings:
 - 1. There may be no printed district calendar in future years. **Presidents, please send your PTSA calendar dates to Cathy by end of May**, to include on new council website/calendar.
 - 2. **Presidents please also send your email, phone, and position(s) to Cathy by end of May**. State if you want this info excluded from the new council website.
 - 3. Planning: Future council general meetings may all be held in the evening, to encourage greater participation. Dinner may be served as well (now budgeted).

V. Guest Speakers

- A. Terri Kaess, CVES PTSA, gave a short testimonial for Julie Metzger, RN, of Seattle Children's Hospital: co-founder of "Great Conversations Growing Up Together", with 20 years' experience educating parents of pre-teen and teenagers (targeted audience), moving toward elementary ages.
 - 1. At \$500 per session, a typical 2-part session would cost roughly \$1000. If there is enough interest from other PTSAs to attend, CVES will sponsor. **PTSAs were asked to consider contributing \$100 each**, so that all parents may attend Free. (Council can facilitate valley involvement, but cannot easily fundraise and/or sponsor.)
 - 2. A question was asked, whether we should partner with Si View or Encompass' Parent Ed. offerings. These sessions would be 3 (Mondays) consecutive, 2 hours each session. See <http://greatconversations.com> for more conference details.
 - 3. A suggestion was made to hold the sessions at MSHS (teen/pre-teen), and also to consider pre-registration to gauge numbers, and the best location. Target dates: decision in May, scheduling for Fall 2009.
- B. Phoebe Terhaar, CDP: Puget Sound ESD / FoY & SVCN
 - 1. Next "Healthy Youth Forum" is Monday, May 11, 7-8:00 p.m. This is a biannual event; parents will be provided with the survey results from grades 6, 8, 10, and 12.
 - a. 7th grade is the minimum age desired; parents may attend without their younger children.

- b. Using a national model to provide format for effectively including youth, e.g. Natural Helpers at MSHS. Flyers were left for interested attendees.
- c. SVCN will host presentations from the evening, for those unable to attend in person.
- 2. A suggestion was made to include safe driving in the FoY pledge. Health and Safety is their focus, according to Phoebe.
- 3. **Cathy will send Phoebe's email address to PTSA presidents for providing more [feedback](#).**

VI. Committee Reports

A. Membership

- 1. MSHS, TFMS, and CVES received their Platinum level award (increase previous year's membership 20%)
- 2. CVES and Council received 100% Membership Awards from WA State PTA.
- 3. A proposed By-Laws change concerning raising membership dues \$.25 will be debated, possibly approved, at Convention.

B. Golden Acorn

- 1. Eight nominations were received.
- 2. Award will be presented at June GM.

C. Legislative: Update on Ed. Reform Bill ESHB 2261

- 1. ESHB 2261 is on the House floor for vote today (4/20). **Liz will update Cathy; Cathy will [update the presidents on its outcome](#).**
- 2. Millions of federal stimulus dollars are at risk without new accountability. ESHB 2261 will ensure that Washington State is better aligned with federal requirements, as the Bill sets up a Finance Council directed at finding funds for education. New funding formula is based on BEFT's "Model School" approach.

D. David Spring letter to the Snoqualmie Valley PTA Board and members Re: Proposed Actions to Restore Adequate School Funding

- 1. David addressed the meeting attendees, "While WA State PTA has joined the NEWS lawsuit and urged the Legislature to fully fund public schools, I ask the Snoqualmie Valley PTA to take one or more of (3) actions."
 - (1) Resolution: Urge SVSD Board of Directors to look into the feasibility of joining the NEWS lawsuit, providing that minimal (zero) cost is incurred by the lawsuit on the district, and communicate its findings to the community. Liz motioned that this resolution be developed; David seconded the motion; all were in favor; none opposed. **Resolution passed.**
 - (2) David Spring made a motion for the 2nd action. No one seconded this motion.
 - (3) Third action is being addressed by Kim Howard's WA State PTA Initiative.

E. Nominating Committee: Election of 2009/10 Officers

- 1. Our Nominating Committee placed the below names in nomination.
- 2. Cheryl Duncan gave a verbal confirmation via phone, and accepted the nomination; Betsy Evensen spoke to her character. **All other officers were present, and also accepted their nomination and vote:**

For office of Co-President: Cathy Renner

For office of Co-President: Ahn Lee Horn

For office of Co-Vice-President: Sue Korol

For office of Co-Vice President: Liz Piekarczyk

For office of Secretary: Cheryl Duncan

For office of Treasurer: Laurie Edwards

VII. Superintendent's Report: *SVSD Expenditure Reduction Plan for 2009/10*

- A. Joel explained that the Expenditure Reduction Plan will be adopted by the School Board, with some uncertainty around extra-curricular activity details.
 - 1. A few highlights from his slides:
 - a. SVSD practicing cost-avoidance since 2007; \$900,000 realized in cost avoidances 07-09.
 - b. February-March budget survey – All respondents’ number one concern was Class size; District has tried to keep the funding cuts as far away from the classroom as possible.
 - c. Curriculum adoption schedule and staff development may be slowed down.
 - d. School services reduction is equitable across grades/schools (a per-pupil metric). Custodial reorganization (central services) and Extracurricular cutbacks (school services) have received the most feedback; Board needs to work on these areas, while the principals remain focused on their schools.
 - 2. Board needs to adopt “the number”, with specific programs/restorations for further consideration: Local deficit is 1.5M; our share of the State deficit is 2.0M; for a total Reduction target of 3.5M.
- B. One source of optimism is the suggestions offered by the community (pay for play, fundraising, etc). Thank you!

VIII. Dates to Remember

April 20 (today) – Special School Board Mtg., 6:30 p.m.

May 1-3, 2009 – WSPTA Convention (Doubletree Hotel/Conference Center, SeaTac)

May 11, 2009 – Snoqualmie Valley Healthy Youth Forum

June 1, 2009 – Council General Meeting, 9:30 a.m. (District Office Board Room)

Meeting Adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Sue Korol,
Council Secretary

SIGN IN SHEET

PTSA COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING—MONDAY, APRIL 20TH, 2009 9:30 AM

NAME	E-MAIL (OPTIONAL)
David Spring	wildernessspring@aol.com
Lori Cobb	
Ahmed Isom	
Deborah Doh	
Lara Currie	SVS Foundation
Cathy Kemmer	
Patricia Wapros	
Lori Hollasch	CKMS
Janie Edwards	(FC)
Alicia Wehr	SES
Lois Bauer	
Liz Piekarczyk	
Robin Schmitt	FCS
Anna Steadman	NBE
Jen Kass	
Cathy Simpson	SVSF
Nrthel	Council Secy
Maggie Lute	CKMS
Betsy Ewensen	FCS
Shelley Huestis	
Raige Mobley	(OES/TFMS)
Shanna Anderson	NBE VP
Koche Terhar	
Debi Hill	NBE
Ann Romano	Opstad

<Email from Cathy>

Here are the updates and info I promised you at yesterday's meeting.

First, the school board adopted the proposed budget reduction plan last night, but the money portion of the budget reduction only. They have not made any decision on programing changes, in particular, changes to extra curricular activities or to a custodial model. The board directed the district to get them more information on these two areas in particular and want to see what else can be done. I will be sending more information on the budget in a separate email.

The next big item! Late last night the house passed EHSB 2261 as amended by the Senate! This means the bill goes to the Governor's desk for her signature. There is more work to be done to make sure we hold the state accountable, but this is a huge first step. This is the first change in the legal definition of basic education since the 1970's.

For those of you who were interested, here is the contact information for Phoebe Terhaar, from Friends of Youth:

Phoebe Terhaar
phoebe@friendsofyouth.com
425-888-4151 x 204

Please contact Phoebe if you have any further questions regarding the Snoqualmie Valley Family Pledge and/or the Healthy Youth Forum to be held May 11th. I strongly encourage everyone with children 13 and older to attend this meeting with their kids. I also encourage those with children under the age of 13 to attend as parents. The more we know, the better we can be prepared for whatever may come in our children's lives. I, as a parent of an 11 and 8 year old, plan on attending this event.

Lastly, I have contacted Cliff Brown, President of CVES PTSA and asked for more information about his idea of the parent enrichment opportunity that Terri Kaess spoke to yesterday, and what that looks like in his mind as well as when decisions need to be made. I will get back to you with that information as soon as I get it. I know the name of the speaker is Julie Metzger and more information on who she is and what she does can be found at: <http://www.greatconversations.com/?q=node/13>