Thurston Parent Network Board Meeting – August 9, 2007

Present: Cindy Neville, Lisa Walker, Pat Palocz, Mary Comer, Principal Palladino and Assistant Principal Borchers

Principal's Update:

Lockers have been installed and bill was given to Cindy to pay the company directly. Mr. Palladino explained that he has been negotiating with the locker company for unused lockers at a reduced rate. He may be able to obtain 52 lockers for the modular classrooms for approx. $5000. (Blue lockers with locks) Custodians can remove old lockers and put them by the cafeteria. Mr. Palladino suggests using Fun Run '08 proceeds to finish replacing 6th & 7th grade lockers. The 8th grade lockers are only 10 years old and do not need replacing at this time.

Lisa will invite "Westwood Press" to Open House (8/28) to take pictures of new lockers. Board will take pictures if a photographer is unavailable.

Plaque for people who donated $100.00 to locker fund will be hung by central entrance. Lisa will follow up with Robbyn Toubekis and confirm with company that the plaques can be hung on cement walls.

Parking Lot Signs – Heath is working on signs to be painted on driveway directing traffic. Mr. Palladino is working on rubber speed bumps and is looking into hiring a sign company to make specific traffic signs.

Open House – August 28, 2007 10:00 – 12:00
TPN will set up in the old gym with two tables on bleacher side. Sixth graders will go to old gym to pick up schedule, 7th and 8th graders will be by the foyer. Student Volunteers are needed (15 7th- 8th graders only). Mr. Palladino/Ms. Borchers will e-mail some students. We can e-mail names of any interested students. This time can count as community service. Volunteers needed 8/23 to put posters together with Debbie and 8/28 at 9:15. Volunteers will be greeters, tour guides, set up at front door with 7th/8th grade schedules. Predicting that entire building will be wireless by the start of school. Ms. Borchers will work with Lalitha to get computers set up for Open House.

Site Council
Mr. Palladino needs to replace 3 site council representatives. Forms will go out 1st day of school. TPN will handle election on Curriculum Night if necessary (9/27).

Assistant Principal's Update:

Cubanana: Two performances will be given, hopefully in H.S. Auditorium. Planned for 7th and 8th graders but may be able to include 6th graders. Scheduled for October 1 at a cost of $1195.00. Board voted to approve this budget item.

Curriculum Documents: Ms. Borchers is working on updating curriculum documents. She will work with teachers to develop a course overview for each class. Student Life section of the website will also be updated based on the Student Handbook.

Guest Speaker: Bill Pollack was the suggested speaker for the upcoming school year (funded by all PTO's). Ms. Borchers is working with Lee Kouri on some other possible speakers and dates.
1. Juliet Schor – on consumer culture and impact of the media on our children, Professor at B.C., and author;
2. Michael Thompson – on raising responsible children, struggles with boys, stress and children's challenges, author of "Raising Cain", recently highlighted in Time Magazine

Committee Updates:

Communications: Lalitha will be set up with computers at Open House. School is moving towards parents getting brief weekly e-mail from Mr. Palladino with link to website and including a specific calendar of events. List serve sign ups go out 1st day. Ms. Borchers will check with Donna McClellan from H.S. to see if we need to get volunteers to help with list serve set up.

Metco: Guidance will place Metco students with Westwood Host Families this year. Parents can volunteer at Open House. Host families provide a home for students to come to while they are waiting for evening school events. Lisa will call Bill Reissfelder about Celtics tickets for basketball night (preferably October on Friday except 10/12). Need 80-100 tickets. We all need a volunteer for the Metco Parent Coordinator to plan Winter Metco Function.

Directories: It is decided that e-mail addresses do not need to be included this year. Denise Nagle is the chair person and will be in touch with Ms. Borchers about artwork for directory in early September. TPN would like to see the Directory cover design and overall layout to be clearer this year. Ms. Borchers will run the art contest in early September. Lisa will get volunteers to hand out directories on Curriculum Night. TPN dues and permission to be included in the directory will be distributed 1st day of school.

Teacher Appreciation: Michelle Cooke is chair. She will provide a teacher welcome for 1st day of school and various dinners and treats throughout the year. Parents can sign up to be on this committee at Open House. TPN will continue to fund coffee and water for the staff for the year.

Gardens: Linda Bates will be cleaning up and planting in front gardens and front lawn. Volunteers can help 8/22, 9-11 or rain date, 8/23, 2-4. Suggestions: Plant bulbs as well as perennials, have Linda contact Sue Constanza. Budget is $300.00 with some additional money available from last year. Donation of $1800.00 received previously.

Gift Backpacks: In the past Community Chest and WW Youth and Family Services have been involved. Mr. Palladino will check with guidance dept. and elementary school principals this year to see how many students are in need this year. They will contact TPN with amount of money needed to fill x number of backpacks.

Kudos Program: Ms. Borchers purchased bull dog stuffed animals this year as a prize. Cindy will pay the company directly.

TPN Newsletter: Kathy Whelan will write 1st TPN newsletter and distribute around time of 1st progress reports. (10/12)

Topics of Discussion:

Curriculum Enrichment vs. Cultural Enrichment: Board would like to see this budget item opened up to all areas of the curriculum not just the arts. Ms. Borchers will let the teachers know they can come to us with ideas by the end of December. Board voted to keep the budget at $1500.00.

Board accepted Joe Lawlors' request for $350.00 for Blue Team Binders.

Board voted to raise student dues fee to $30.00 per student.

Next Meeting: August 28, 2007, 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. in Room 301

Respectfully submitted by: Mary Comer, August 9, 2007

Addendum to August 9, 2007 TPN Minutes:

Modular **Lockers** with locks will be installed in September at the cost of $3500.00. Mr. Palladino will ask for Replacement/Repair Kit for future use.

Supplies for **20 backpacks** are needed. Mr. Palladino will let us know what the Guidance Dept. needs from TPN. Guidance will generate two lists: needy and those who may need a few items.

TPN Meetings will take place the third Monday of each month in the Conference Room at 9:15 a.m.

Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 17, April 14, May 12, June 16

Juliet Schor will speak at Westwood High School on Tuesday, October 16.

Celtics Game Night is October 17.