

SCPTAs General Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2013

Mary Christiano, President, called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. at Weller Elementary. A quorum was present. Mary led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed everyone in attendance. Mary thanked Weller Principal Mrs. Monroe for hosting the meeting and the Weller PTA for providing the breakfast.

Superintendent's Report: In response to the shooting at the Elementary school in Connecticut, Dr. Ridder feels strongly that positive school to community relationships can cut down on the violence. They should be positive, less competitive and focused on helping each other. He said he had 5 calls after the disaster and he reassured us the Springfield schools are safe. The district is looking to expand facilities and faculty and still keep an eye on improving technology. In April there will be an initiative voted on for these purposes and he will be calling on the units and schools for onsite support.

Program: Mary introduced Denise Kelly the District English Language Arts Coordinator. Denise talked about the SPS Language arts program designed to keep parents and teachers relevant while promoting independent learning. It is a new program called "Words their Way" and will take students beyond the traditional spelling tests by looking for patterns, focusing on phonetics, transferring spelling to writing and teaching to the students' learning styles.

Mary introduced Natalie Murdock from the Foundation for SPS who informed the units of an opportunity to partner with the Foundation on ticket sales for the Harlem Globetrotters. The participating units will receive part of the proceeds from those sales. The event is February 7th.

Mary introduced Kim Acuff from Weller who spoke about their "Cents of Pride" program. In this program the students earn "pride bucks" and use them to shop in their school store for clothing, books, or hygiene products. The program is now in 12 entitlement schools and they have 5,000 kids shopping every month. Kim stressed the skills the kids are learning. It is a great opportunity for community involvement and a way for kids at non-entitlement schools to give back.

Treasurers' Report: Angela Knight directed those present to refer to page 4 of the Council News for a financial overview and asked if there were any questions.

President's Report: Mary announced that January is *Salute to Schools Month*. This is different from Teacher Appreciation week and is designed to show appreciation to all the school staff. Since it is all month long, your PTA unit can choose one week to celebrate. There are ideas at Pinterest.com/Missouripta. Mary also announced the Male Engagement Conference February 8-10 in Kansas City. There is also a Bullying Workshop presented by Dr. Glenn Berry from the UMKC Schools of Education and the Missouri Center for Safe Schools. Information is in the Contact Magazine.

VP of Organization / Development: Dot Atkinson reported that there is a Silent Auction held at the Founders' Day Banquet to benefit the CARE fund and that all proceeds will go into this fund. All units are encouraged to donate a basket or item. Items can be brought to the February Council Meeting or arrangements can be made. Dot thanked all who attended the Kid's First Legislative Town Hall. Dot said a special thank you to Donna Petiford who moderated and MOPTA for coordinating the event. The MOPTA's legislative priorities are listed in last month's the newsletter and this month we have the SPS Board of Education priorities listed. The similarities are interesting. The legislative session begins on January 9th and the 2013 Legislative Handbook is available on the MOPTA website. Dot asked that if you haven't signed up for legislative alerts, please do so. Dot also appreciates all units following up to insure that they are a unit in good standing. If there are questions, please contact MOPTA or SCPTA.

VP of Promotions: Kim Horton encouraged units to keep selling PTA memberships. She reminded everyone that the Founders' Day Banquet is February 21 and there is an enrollment form on the back of the Council News. Tickets are \$16/person. We are celebrating PTA's 100th anniversary. Please send in your Volunteer of the Year bio and a picture so they can be in the video.

VP of Health / Public Safety: Kim Wrinkle was absent, but her update on the Clothing Bank is on page 9 of the Council News.

VP of Programs: Alice Lunn reported there were 26 schools participating in the Reflections program this year. All of the entries submitted will be on display at the Battlefield Mall on Sunday, January 13 from 12-4:00pm. An awards ceremony will be held at 3:00pm. Alice announced that plans are underway for the 4th Grad Play, and the next RIF distribution is January 16th.

Donna Petiford took the opportunity to explain the importance and steps taken to assure the Springfield school's PTA units are in good standing with MOPTA. Officer training would be helpful in keeping units in good standing. Mary stressed that we have an opportunity to be trained this October at the State Convention in Springfield and that units should set aside funds to send their Executive board members.

Unfinished Business: Patty Dunn nominated Becky Volz from Hillcrest to be on the SCPTA Nominating Committee. Motion passed.

New Business: The SCPTA Executive board recommends that we add a 5th scholarship to be established so there is one for each High School. (Presently there are 4 scholarships issued on a rotating basis). Motion passed.

Sergeant at Arms - Beth Finke: 34 in attendance, 18 units represented, 5 Principals, and 23 PTA representatives, 33 units were not represented.

Meeting adjourned.

There was an executive board meeting held after the General Meeting to discuss food options for the P2G Conference. Dot moved to spend \$200 on the Persistence to Graduation Conference for Principals and Counselors. Motion passed

Patty Dunn
Secretary