

PTO MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14TH, 2006 7:00pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

The October minutes were reviewed and motion was made to accept.

New Sound System: Mr. Foresi and Dawn Wolf are trying to find an opportune time when the gym is available for the installation of the new sound system. It will not be completed for the Patricia Pallaco author visit, but will hopefully be done in time for the Winter Concert.

TREASURER'S REPORT: SANDY GIROLAMO

Our budget is looking good! Sandy Girolamo reviewed the current treasurer's report. There will be more expenses to come for the 11/17 author visit. Our committed expenses from now through June are \$19,277.38. We have requested reserves in the amount of \$12,200. Any additional fundraisers will be for added programs for the students. The yearbook and playscape (from 2000 reserve) are part of the reserves. We need to have a reserve of money for the playscape if it ever needs to be fixed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: MR. FORESI

The annual Halloween Parade had a great turnout and he thanked everyone for making it such a success.

The third and fourth grade students have been taking "benchmark" tests to modify and adjust learning and teaching techniques. Kindergarten through second grade students are using reading and writing assessments. Math progress and assessment is done on a daily basis and he is looking into additional ways to monitor this

The first school Family Meeting was held last week. The meeting groups consist of 1 adult staff member and 10 students. They focus on cooperation, self-esteem, self-respect. Every other month there is a schoolwide family meeting where all groups get together to collaborate. Some groups develop special signals to give to each other which is special to their own school family.

Author visit-Patricia Pollaco is coming Friday. Our school is very fortunate to have her coming. Thank you to Joy DePolis for her efforts in getting her to visit our school.

Progress Reports are being done. Conferences will be held on December 5th, 6th and 7th. Parents should pick up progress reports in the office prior to conference. It was questioned why progress reports are not mailed home prior to the conferences and he will look into that possibility. It is mainly an issue of timing by the teachers preparing as close to the conference times as possible so they are the most up to date. A parent may pick up the progress report in the office earlier than the conference day if they wish to.

Our school is currently going through an accreditation process. We will have the end result by next October. Mr. Foresi then introduced Mr. Carson from the Board of Education.

TILE ART PROJECT: Deferred to the December meeting

CORRESPONDENCE: KAREN KENNEY

She read a letter from the cafeteria workers thanking the PTO for the beautiful plants we gave them in honor of Cafeteria Worker's Day.

HOSPITALITY: RANDI THURESON

The next appreciation day is tomorrow: Custodial Worker's day. We will be giving them boxes of candy with a thank you note and we also purchased an additional Dunkin Donuts gift card for Mr. Karalis as an extra "thank you". We will also be providing refreshments for the Student Council inauguration ceremony which will be held on December 5th. Dawn also introduced Pam Madrazo who will be taking over the committee in the near future.

HELP WANTED: DAWN WOLF

Dawn distributed sign-up sheets for all of the upcoming events for the rest of the year. We need help and participation to make these events a success!

There was discussion about the Garden Show. It was mentioned that many students and parents do not really understand what and when it is and don't remember it since it occurs at the beginning of the school year. Some discussion about ways to increase awareness and participation. Dawn asked Marina Wright to spearhead the Garden Show committee for next year and she agreed. It was suggested to have a Family Fun Night to plant seeds and hopefully get more participation that way.

Dawn would like more people to get involved to organize some Family Fun Nights for students and parents and is looking for some creative events to go on this year.

SCRIP: EILEEN COLONESE

Eileen is looking for ways to market the program to make it a success. She needs 10 volunteers to get orders in and help talk it up to others to get the word out about it. We can even use it for our own organization and get the profits back. Office Depot gives 5% back to our school on all sales.

WEBSITE: DAWN WOLF

Len and Joanne Errera could not attend but Dawn distributed a handout explaining what they have researched and have made into a proposal for the PTO website. They will have more information in the future.

CULTURAL ARTS: LISA ABRAMS

The first cultural arts event will be held on Wednesday, November 15th. It is a group called Taino and they perform about Thanksgiving around the world.

NEW BUSINESS: GROUP

Mr. Kemp did receive a grant of \$520 from NEF for an extra lapel microphone to go with the new sound system.

A new fundraiser idea was discussed-Raffle off a parking space in front of the school and the winner gets to have that parking space for 1 month from 2:30-3:30 pm. Mr. Foresi thought that although it is a good idea, it would be difficult to monitor and enforce.

There was some discussion about adding white lines in front of the school on the street to designate actual parallel parking spaces. This would allow for more cars to park efficiently.

Discussion about publishing school event pictures on the website. Mr. Carson said that photos of our students are not allowed on a website. Any photos need to be very far away where children cannot be individually identified.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.