

## **PTO Meeting April 1, 2008**

**Attendance:** Joanne Errera, Eileen Colonese, Randi Thureson, Maureen Callahan, Pam Madrazo, Suzy Vass, Gaman Jinwala, Lisha Nunes, Christine Veilleux, Janet Schneider, Christina Chasse, Tom Chasse, Jaycee Perkins, Lisa Abrams, Sandi Girolamo, Megan Kelley, Stephen Foresi, Sharon Lichota, Loraine Lagace, Tammy Voorhies, Nancy Galarza, Eric Pyne, Jackie Kachnowski, Trisha Copeland, Bill Copeland, Renee Lavoie, Jean McGill, Leigh Grande, Jodi Klimas, Marilyn Wilsey, Joanne Marino

Randi reminded everyone that the minutes were available on the PTO Website. Last month's Meeting Minutes were approved.

Mr. Foresi gave his report:

- He thanked everyone for participating in the Parent Teacher conferences. He said there was a very high participation rate.
- The Book Fair was also very successful. There were 29 volunteers and we were able to get books for the school classrooms, Media Center and Resource Center.
- CMTS have been completed.
- Kindergarten enrollment – there were 83 enrollees, which would be 20 – 21 for 4 classes; if enrollment increases he would have to address the issue of adding another class.
- The week of 4/7 – 4/11 is Celebration of Abilities week. There will be a number of activities including a Presentation on Sign Language for 4<sup>th</sup> Graders, Kids on the Block doing a show related to Attention Deficit Disorder for 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders. If anyone has any ideas for activities, let Mr. Foresi know.
- Grandparents/Special Friends week will be 4/28 – 5/2
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation at John Wallace Middle School will be Tuesday, 4/29.
- There were some copies of the Summary Report from the NEAS & C visit available. He asked that people read through and bring questions/comments to the next PTO meeting. If anyone wants a copy of the full report, they are available at the office.

Eileen gave the Treasurer's Report

- Right now there is a \$24,000 balance, but we owe Genevieve's and we have the School Picnic, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Picnic & Yearbook, Cultural Arts and Nancy Boyle for next fall and the Playscape reserve still to come out of that. She estimates the true balance to be about \$10,000.
- Cookie Dough sales were down from last year, but not all money has yet been collected. It still was a success.
- She has researched the issue with the water that the PTO supplies to the teachers. We can buy a Poland Springs Water Cooler for \$100 - \$130 plus taxes and fuel charges. This includes a 2 year unlimited warranty. Right now we are renting the cooler for \$9 per month, paying \$8 per bottle and going through about 15 bottles per month. If we switch to Ice Mountain water, we can decrease cost to \$6 per bottle. Gaman Jinwala offered to pay the costs for the water for the remainder of the year – estimated to be about \$220. Other options to reduce costs discussed included stopping the water during July and August and putting a cap on the number of bottles the PTO would buy. It would primarily be the custodial and office staff that would be drinking the water during the summer months. A motion was made to switch to the Ice Mountain water and purchase the cooler at this time. We can revisit issue again at a later time. Motion approved.
- The Pasta Dinner was cancelled because sales were not high enough to pay expenses.
- We are planning to have a Movie & Pizza night at the end of May. Anyone interested in helping out should see Eileen.

Sandi put in an application for a mini grant to help pay for the Nancy Boyle visit in the fall. The grant was denied, but this may be because they have 11 projects at this time and it will not take place until the fall. She will resubmit when we get closer to the program in September.

Nomination forms for PTO officers for next year are available. The vote will be at the next meeting May 6.

Pam Madrazo gave an update on schedule for Grandparents/ Special Friends week.

- April 28 9:30 - 10:30 AM 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
- April 28 1:50 - 2:50 PM 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- May 1 9:15 – 10:15 AM 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- May 1 1:50 – 2:50PM 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- May 2 10:00 -11:00 AM – Kindergarten

There are lots of little things people can help with. Anyone interested should see Pam.

Teacher Appreciation week will be the first week of May. In years past, the PTO has gotten water for the teachers. Last year we got them water bottles. Pam asked for Mr. Foresi's permission to get them something for this year. There are 80 staff members. Mr. Foresi approved.

Board of Education Representative Mr. Wood opened up discussion regarding School Uniforms

- Initiative went through the Student Policy Committee and is now being brought to the PTOs throughout the district. Would probably be looking for close to 100% parental support before pushing through.
- There were questions as to what brought this about. Did something happen with inappropriate dress? If this were to move forward, what would it accomplish? How would uniforms help?
- Mr. Wood said that from the research he did on the Internet, it appears that requiring uniforms worked successfully in urban settings in which there were attendance and violence issues. There is no proof that uniforms have any lasting benefits. Requiring uniforms, does not really address the issue. He is personally not in support of school uniforms.
- Many in attendance still had questions as to what brought this issue up and felt they needed additional information before forming an opinion one way or the other.
- Those who are at the school frequently, mentioned that they do see some inappropriate dress – short skirts, midriffs showing
- Many present felt that the current Dress Code needs to be better defined and enforced.
- Questions as to who will enforce. Should teachers be responsible? This will take their time away from their teaching. It may be easier to enforce dress code with uniforms as it is not as subjective.
- Some parents received an email from the Middle School which presented the issue differently. It said that all that was required to push this through was approval by 5 board members and they already had that. They don't need approval from parents. Mr. Wood said that is correct, but was not so sure if they had the 5 supporting board member and he doesn't think they will push it through unless it had the support of the majority of parents.
- Question as to whether there should be a PTO liaison so we can keep up with the status of it and not be taken by surprise.

Randi asked if there were any other matters to be addressed. There were not, so the meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.