

PTO Meeting Minutes May 6, 2008

Attendance: Dawn Wolf, Joanne Errera, Len Errera, Randi Thureson, Gramamlal Jimwala, Eileen Colonese, Sandi Girolamo, Stephen Foresi, Lisa Abrams, Pam Raynock, Maureen Callahan

Old Business: Dawn asked if anyone reviewed April's meeting minutes on the website. The motion to accept April's minutes were motioned, seconded and approved.

Dawn thanked Pam Raynock from the Board of Ed for attending and asked her for an update on the goings on at the Board. She indicated that there was not much new to report. They got through the budget which was hard. Next year they will need our support because the council wants to make even more cut next year. When a lot of parents show up to the meetings they really pay attention. Be aware next year and support your school and principal by coming out and making sure we stay on track. Presently class sizes are good and the Board of Ed is working hard to keep it that way and it might be going in the wrong direction with increased class sizes if there are more cuts made. The discussion regarding school uniforms has been put on the back burner for now. They will be reviewing the current dress codes and making sure they are up to date with those. Dr. Schumann was doing some research on surrounding towns regarding the uniforms. A question regarding budget cuts due to general economic times or new political views. Pam responded that it started off as what the new party wanted to get accomplished. The Board of Ed tries really hard to be non political as they can be. Everyone has our children's best interests as their first priority. This year we could have afforded a higher budget but they opted against it due to the economy. We received a lot of money from the state this year and it might not be that way next year. Parents need to come together and speak up about education to keep things on track. This year it was not about not having enough money to go around it was about the 3% pledge. Dr. Perlini did a good job allocating and reallocating the funds. \$122,000 – first cut, another \$50,000 cut and then a third one. Technology was cut as well. Parents need to attend the council meetings to make changes.

Another question regarding what changes Pam is seeing at the elementary schools. She was referring to the increase in class sizes. It's slowly going up and it could get worse if the budget is cut further. At E. Green there were 24 kids in kindergarten and 4th grade classes and they were able to hire more teachers, but that might not be the case next year if class sizes increase. It's not the Board of Ed but the council driving the changes.

Mr. Foresi spoke to how JP was faced with the class size situation. Incoming kindergarten class is at 83 students and can increase 10 or more and JP will seek an additional teacher. He says he doesn't know if the board will approve it or not so we could be faced with large class sizes for kindergarten.

Principal's report:

Just finished up with grandparents and special friends week. It was a great turn out. Pam Madrazo and other parent volunteers made it a special event. All children were involved in exercise simultaneous day. JP has partnered up with Rope for Heart. Different grade levels will work with Mr. Bennett throughout the day to get out together and exercise for a half hour. First time we have engaged in something like this. Parents can donate to the organization. Flyers went home but donations can be made on the website too. Everyone will come together at the start of school onto the black top, form an enormous circle on the blacktop and do stretches and exercises together. Then grade levels will rotate going outside to participate in the activities. The student council brought the idea to Mr. Foresi and he decided to go forward with it.

Kindergarten orientation is going on this week. The kids do fun activities working with 2 kindergarten teachers while parents meet with Mr. Foresi. He indicated if anyone knew of kindergarteners that weren't registered we should encourage them to register. He starts to look at student placement at the end of the month. If parents have any concerns or information they want him to know to please contact him so they can place the child appropriately.

There are a lot of cultural arts programs going on which supports the current curriculum. Carnivale Trio is coming back and it's a great program so the school is looking forward to that. May 22nd, 1pm and 2pm.

Spring concert is coming up next week – May 13th – 1:50 and an evening performance.

Treasurer's report:

See handout.

Profits from the fundraisers:

Cookie dough \$3500

Book fair \$2100

The book fair didn't make that much more having it during conference week. Suggestion was to do it during grandparents and special friend's week. They tried but scholastic was booked. Maybe next year.

Expenses left this year:

4 th grade picnic	\$1200
End of Year Picnic	\$2500
Cultural Arts	\$475
Hospitality	\$500
4 th grade yearbook	\$500
Tile Project	\$1500
Playscape	\$2000
Misc.	\$500

Need for next year (beginning)

Nancy Boyles	\$3500
Hospitality	\$1000
Cultural Arts Deposits	\$3000
Misc.	\$1000
	\$8500

Balance 5/6/08:

\$18402.11

\$17675

\$727.11

Motion to allocate next year expenses. It was seconded. All were in favor.

Wrapping paper fundraiser scheduled for the fall. Guaranteed \$5000 of profit. Photographer will be scheduled for next year as well. 35 people made us \$1500 so the potential to make money is huge. So we need to talk it up and make it more successful so we can keep our fundraisers down.

Next Tuesday night is the kick off for the dream dinners fundraiser. It's more of a social event than a fundraiser.

End of the year picnic is under way. We are about 80% ready to go. Tickets will go on sale next week. Flyer going out this week in backpacks. Food is still up in the air so we have to look into that as we "lost" our connection with Public Market. Sams club will allow you to return items that are not opened, even the frozen foods. Volunteer forms will be sent home. Picnic is June 6th. Mr. Jinwala offered to make an Indian dish for the picnic. We agreed to allow him to make this dish. The picnic committee will meet and have him bring the dish and let us know what he needs for equipment and what it will cost to make the dish for the picnic. We will reimburse him for the cost.

Movie night – Eileen is working on getting that going. Suggestion was to do the movie night outside. Everyone bring their lawn chairs and picnic dinner. Start time would be really late because it doesn't get dark until later. We could do an earlier movie inside for the younger kids and then the older kids could do the outside movie.

New water cooler is in. The old one is still here until the water is gone. Then it will be returned. Mr. Jinwala made the generous donation to pay for the new water cooler.

Maureen read a few thank you notes received. Gina Prange & Paula Bowmen thanked us for the chocolate for secretary's day as well as a gift certificate to Outback.

Tomorrow is nurse's day and Pam purchased a gift certificate for Mrs. Breen.

Dawn wanted to discuss the new Field House. Since the PTO is changing officers she wanted to close out this item before the change. Dawn would like to defer it but keep it in our minds that they are looking for donations. Think about where our budget is going and to think about it in the fall again so the new officers can vote on it.

Pam Madrazo couldn't attend but she said grandparents week went well. The teacher's appreciation gift for this year was the purchase of the water cooler.

Officer Nominations for next year. If an officer is in a position and it's their last year Dawn requested that the person take someone under their wing so when they leave there is some smoother transition.

Officers nominations:

President: Sandi Girolamo
Vice President: Randi Thureson
Treasurer: Eileen Colonese
Secretary: Sharon Lichota
Playscape: Marc Pratte
Cultural Arts: Lisa Abrams
Hospitality: Pam Madrazo
Communications/website: Joanne Errera

Nominations were seconded and accepted.

Donate a book program. Flyers will be sent out to the parents and can get that in before their child "graduates" from JP. Sandi will take care of that.

Dawn was thanked for her hard work as this is her last meeting as president.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12.