

John Paterson PTO Monthly Meeting

June 3, 2008

Minutes

The meeting started at 7:09 P.M.

Attendance: Sandi Girolamo, Randi Thureson, Eileen Colonese, Sharon Lichota, Joanne Errera, Marina Wright, Pam Madrazo, Maureen Callahan, Jaycee Perkins, Dawn Wolf, Lisa Abrams, Gramamlal Jinwala, Nancy Galarza, Mr. Stephen Foresi and Mrs. Marilyn Wilsey,

Old Business:

Review of May 2008 Minutes – A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes from last month.

New Business:

Introduce Board of Ed member – There was no Board member scheduled to join us for this meeting.

Principal's Report

- Mr. Foresi welcomed the new Board Members.
 - Incoming Officers:
 - 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
- This Thursday (June 3rd) there will be an Awards Ceremony to celebrate the learning of all the students in the building.
- The fourth grade picnic was today. The students had a great time.
- The 4th graders received their yearbooks today. Mr. Foresi said it looked very professional and he's happy the students get such a nice yearbook. He thanked the PTO for the yearbooks and the t-shirts.
- The end of the year slideshow will be June 13th at 9:30 a.m.
- They are starting to look at classroom placement for next year – both from a staffing and enrollment perspective. They will decide how to appropriately place students into classrooms. Placement into the new classes will be finalized by the time final progress reports go home at the end of the school year.

- There was an email that circulated from the T-ball commissioner regarding an incident at Paterson School's playscape about a week ago during either a T-ball practice or game. A man allegedly tried to convince a sibling of one of the children playing T-ball to get into his car. The attempt was unsuccessful but parents are being cautioned not to leave their children unattended at the playscape. Mr. Foresi mentioned that this happened during an extra-curricular activity and not during school hours. The Newington police are continuing their investigation. There has been no resolution as far as we know.
- He introduced Mrs. Wilsey and asked us to welcome her.

Mrs. Wilsey shared that the 2nd graders loved the High Tech, High Touch program that was all about matter and she wanted to thank the PTO for bringing the program in. Eileen Colonese mentioned that we have some thank you notes from the 2nd grade related to that program. She passed them around so we could read through them.

A thank you note from Mrs. Breen was read. She thanked the PTO for the Nurse's Appreciation gift.

Treasurer's Report

- Eileen mentioned that Crystal Rock was a little higher this month because of the purchasing of the water dispenser.
- She is awaiting the final yearbook receipts and 4th grade picnic receipts that aren't in yet. She is also awaiting the end of year picnic costs and a few other miscellaneous things.
- She mentioned that we had broken the rest of the expenses for the year down and allocated money for those outstanding items and start up costs for next year during last month's meeting. We had about \$700 left which is about as close to zero as we could make it.
- Fundraisers scheduled for the start of school include wrapping paper and the picture people. She's hoping to get some fundraiser information out to parents at the beginning of the year.
- Returned checks are all cleared.
- All cookie dough has been delivered.

End of Year Picnic – Eileen Colonese reported that we're set to go. Everything is booked and confirmed for Friday. The weather looks good so far. She rented a tent this year from Taylor Rental. (Along with the other equipment we rent – grills, cotton candy machine, etc.) This will make setup and cleanup a lot easier because Taylor Rental will setup and break down the tent. Mr. Foresi mentioned that there has been some response regarding the Indian dish that has been added to the menu this year. Other people have asked if they can bring other cultural items to the picnic or if we could possibly have a separate cultural evening for other dishes. He raised it to the PTO as something to think about for future years. Sandi Girolamo asked if anyone would be interested in chairing a cultural event for next year. Nobody volunteered. We will revisit this in the fall.

Scholastic Book Fair – Randi Thureson gave the book fair update. (Erika Ganley couldn't be here tonight.)

- 2008-2009 Dates – We were thinking of doing the first book fair during the week of October 20th. This is the week of Grandparents/Special Friends week. Mr. Foresi and Mrs. Wilsey both mentioned concerns with this idea based on the short amount of time the grandparents will be here for this event. There will be the potential to have many grandparents come down to the library all at once. The grandparents also don't sign in so they will be wandering through the school with no visitors badges. Randi will discuss this week with Erika to see what we can do.
- For the second book fair, we are thinking of doing it during the week of March 24th (the week of Parent/Teacher conferences).
- Volunteer for Committee/Co-Chair – Erika also wants to put together a small committee to help coordinate the book fairs. The committee would handle promotions, run family night, handle day to day operations, coordinate the volunteers, etc. Randi Thureson has Erika's phone number if anyone is interested in helping.

Committee Chair Vacancies/Shadowing – Sandi Girolamo mentioned that if anyone is interested in shadowing one of our committee chairs, whether you have a specific event or a committee you'd like to be on or if you're just interested in helping in general but you aren't sure where to help, to please see her for more information. Sandi is getting a list together of what we'll need in regards to shadowing and vacancies in light of some members having children graduate and move on to middle school. Eileen Colonese also mentioned that people can do things differently than the current members do them. (Just because she did a Fall Fest, doesn't mean the next person has to do a Fall Fest. They can choose to do something else if they want to.)

Other Announcements:

Lucy Robbins Welles library asked for \$250 from each school to cover the cost of the Summer Reading Program assembly given in the fall. Motoko will be the speaker at the assembly. Lisa Abrams made a motion to send the \$250 to the library. Eileen seconded the motion. The motion passed and Eileen will send them the check.

The tentative date for the Garden Show is September 9th. The ribbons have been ordered and the seeds went home to the incoming kindergarteners. The notices went home to all the rest of the students today.

Randi Thureson thanked Dawn Wolf for all her work as PTO President over the past year. Pam Madrazo gave her a gift from the PTO. The PTO also thanked Mr. Foresi and Mrs. Wilsey for all of their input over the past year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.