

March 11, 2010
PTO Meeting Minutes

Call to Order made by Paula Heinzmann and Michele Lavoie, co-presidents.

Principal's Remarks

Mrs. Catarius thanked Mrs. Heinzmann and Mrs. Lavoie for coming to the Kindergarten orientation the night before, especially for Mrs. Heinzmann, who described how she had come to be a part of the PTO. Some good news: Mrs. Cookson had a baby boy, named Henry, 9 lbs. 4 oz. Both are doing very well. The Kindergarten orientation was smaller than usual the night before. The CMT's are going very well - new schedule this year, with at least one day per week away from CMT's to give the kids a break. We are going to have a demo of the ELMO system, for 2 weeks, for training for the teachers. An ELMO is like an overhead projector that you can put any paper whatsoever on the projector and it comes up on the screen instantaneously. It's a digital image, rather than a projection. We have applied for various grants, and are awaiting word to hear if we've gotten them. We are also looking at Artsonia - a website on which our children's art is displayed for purchase on various goods (aprons, mugs, mouse pads, etc.) A portion of each purchase would go towards our art department. Mrs. Ward, even though she is leaving, is really requesting that the funds raised would go towards purchasing art tables, which are \$500 each, and they would need 8 of them.

Secretary's Report

Kat Zapor and Paula Heinzmann presented reports from December 2009 and February 2010 for review. A motion to accept December 2009 was made by Janet Vasel, seconded by Martin Malicki. A motion to accept February 2010 was made by Martin Malicki, seconded by Janet Vasel. Both motions were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Schraeder didn't have the exact numbers, but about \$30,000 was still in the account. Butter Braids fundraiser came in, we made some money on that. We also finalized the Entertainment Book proceeds, and we earned about \$1000 on that - we had budgeted about \$250. Dave had some questions about which fund the author visit came out of - Michele Lavoie clarified that it should be the Enrichment fund, or that it should have its own fund. Dave will double check on it. We have brought in \$280 for the car magnets, but still have one box of magnets left over. The proceeds have now been earmarked, along with proceeds from the coffee fundraiser, in the total amount of \$430 to go towards the sixth grade fund. Motion was made by Dave Berry, seconded by Andrea Ginter. Motion was approved.

Committee Reports

Beautification - Janet Vasel - cleanup date scheduled for April 10th at 9 am. We are focusing on the two areas in front of the building, to the left and the right of the front doors, and the central island. All hands are welcome. Janet spoke with the tree warden, to look at the tree near the ramp near the K-1st grade ramp area. They may try to save the tree if it looks well enough. Otherwise, it would be removed and possibly replaced. Janet asked the tree warden to see if we can put in a tree line to provide shade for the 5th and 6th grade classrooms, and possibly block the odor from the dumpsters. He will see what he can do. The warden asked if we wanted to participate in the 375 anniversary to purchase a tree. Janet will research and get back to us if we wanted to do something. The courtyard will be taken over again by the girl scouts. Umbrellas have been purchased and will be put out once the weather cooperates. The walkway will also be finished soon. An artist has been commissioned to paint parts of the courtyard as well, and that cost will be absorbed by the girl scouts as well.

New Business - Janet had looked into getting an American Indian storyteller to come out and speak to the children. The person Janet had contacted would come on behalf of a Lakota tribe, to help raise funds for the tribe, since they'd had a very hard winter. An idea of a tag sale, with proceeds from renting tables to go to the Lakota Indians, was brought up. Janet will research more and get back to us.

WSPC - Robin Bourassa - Michael Emmet, the acting superintendant, went through a few pages of the current budget. Interviews are being conducted for an interim superintendant, but nothing has been

decided yet. There will be two budget meetings to go over the proposed budget. Also, Robin had the form for the WSPC recognition - to honor people who volunteer a lot of their time. The form will be submitted to Tiger Topics as well.

Creative Arts - Martina Cacioli - \$1078.45 by 133 students has been raised so far towards the fund drive, with the 4th grade students fiercely competing.

Teacher Appreciation - Martina Cacioli - The next appreciation will be for St. Patrick's Day - all the desserts will be green! Beth Thompson is looking for additional bakers for appreciations.

Martina also has all of the Genevieve catalogs, ready to be passed along to whoever takes over.

Enrichment - Sarah Weeks is coming on April 6th. Books are still available to be signed, as long as they're purchased ahead of time. Sarah will be here the entire day, at Emerson.

Kindergarten Handprint - Claudia Miller - everything is done! No absences!

TV Turn Off Week - April 26-30th - We may have Bounce U, a pool night, and possibly a restaurant night. It will be run by Michele Lavoie and Paula Heinzmann. All ideas are welcome - please submit to Paula and Michele.

Talent Show - Robin Bourassa - May 1st at SDMS, Dress rehearsal will also be held at SDMS. Signups have gone out. Showcase will be held at Emerson to screen all acts. Anyone interested in helping out, contact Robin or Michelle Quadrato.

Taste of Wethersfield tickets may be purchased from Paula Heinzmann - it will be held April 10th.

Art Show - Michele Lavoie and Paula Heinzmann - they are working with Mrs. Ward - more info to follow.

Big Y - Kelly Weinberg - we have earned more points, and it ends in June - Kelly will bring the catalog next meeting.

Butter Braids - Martin Malicki - we earned \$1572, budgeted \$1000, mostly thanks to one family who bought over \$800 of braids - mostly through work.

Box Tops - Michelle Bosco - we received a check for \$235. Keep those box tops coming! There will be a contest in May, and a party in June for the winning classroom.

Jog-A-Thon - will be hopefully outdoor on May 14th, with a raindate of May 21st, during the school day. More info to follow, coming home with your children.

Strawberry Festival - waiting for info from Nina. We still need new game ideas! Glastonbury Inflatables has been reserved again. Please go online and view the bouncers, and report back if there are any bouncers you feel strongly about. Parents will contact the middle and high school shop teachers to see if we could have them design some new games. Boy Scouts will also be contacted.

Yankee Candle - Michelle Bosco - deadline is next week, with all proceeds going to the music scholarship fund.

Rock Cats - Paula Heinemann - June 27th will be Emerson Williams Day. More info to follow!!

Spring Pictures - scheduled for March 26th - Michele Livingston. This is all a la cart - no obligation!

Sibling photos are also available.

6th grade - Jackie Malizia - Pasta dinner had a great turnout, big success. Made almost \$800! Most of the food was donated from D&D. Leftovers were taken to the South Park Inn. Meeting will be held next week to determine what else is needed through the rest of the year.

New Business

Nominating committee - volunteers to run the committee are needed.

The Budget Meeting will be held in the near future - all are welcome, a date will be set soon. The Budget meeting is held separately from the PTO meeting. A request was submitted that the teachers submit their wish lists with prices, when possible, as soon as possible.

The plays cape dilemma was brought up again - more planning is necessary, and will be brought up during the budget meeting to see how much will be allocated each year towards this fund. Mrs. Catarius cautioned that we really need to start saving as soon as possible so that our children are not left without a plays cape in case it is determined that the plays cape is no longer safe.

Please email all Tiger Topics submissions and suggestions to Dave Berry at djberry@snet.net

Closing remarks were made by co-presidents Michele Lavoie and Paula Heinzmann. They thanked all for coming.