

October 2010 PTO Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2010

Call to Order - Paula Heinzmann and Andrea Ginter called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

Principal's Remarks - Mrs. Catarius went over the CT Master Test - she gave a brief overview as to what the test entails, and how it works. Mrs. Catarius stressed that if you have any questions, to please contact her or your child's teacher. We do have some new staff members coming - interviews are being conducted at this time. New Reading Tutor for Grade 1 - Andrea Cassano. Soon welcoming a new grade 6 teacher. New Kindergarten teacher that we will be sharing with Webb coming soon also. The PD day was spent in training on the SMARTboards and websites. Pat Richardson has put the individual teachers websites on the EW website. George Bashura asked Mrs. Catarius how not having a census for Kindergarteners affects her budgeting and planning. Mrs. Catarius stated it's difficult to plan for, but that they usually have enough supplies, but they do need more bin books. Mrs. Catarius can never predict how many teachers she's going to need for the incoming class. Mrs. Catarius stated we've gotten money from the Obama Administration, which has helped also.

Secretary's Report - presented by Kat Zapor. Changes to be made - New teacher is Mrs. Clark for Special Education. Tech Committee co chair is Mrs. Krawciw. Motion to accept made by Martin Malicki, seconded by Janet Vasel. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - presented by Dave Schroeder. We have \$23,000 in our account. The attachment that was passed out outlined what the funds are earmarked for. Couple things not included, but will be in next month's report are the Golf Fundraiser and the Genevieve Fundraiser. Genevieve was a little under budget - \$5800 in sales, we will keep about half of that. Golf Fundraiser - most of the money is set for the Playscape.

Teacher Representative - Brittany Richard was scheduled, but not able to attend.

Committee Reports - 3 minutes

Address Directory - Andrea Ginter - they're done. Should have gotten them today, or will get them tomorrow. Extra copies may be available for \$1 a piece.

BOE Liaison - George Bashura - Fun experience! Please, parents, come out to the BOE meetings. George went to the special retreat meeting, and heard what the various schools need. All day Kindergarten has been discussed. Meeting this week spoke of WHS resource officers. Legal budget was \$69k, but over \$300 was spent.

Cheer/Teacher Appreciation - Lauren Barbara/Martina Cacioli - September, Phoebe did something with apples. Alicia, Shenka and Martina will be doing something. Lauren has someone for every month, but more help is always appreciated.

Community Outreach - Phoebe Ostergren/Martina Cacioli - The first drive will be November 8-12 for food. Cleaning supplies will be collected as admission for the Harvest Fest.

Creative Arts - Martina Cacioli - Had a program on Bullying in September - was very interesting. Very dynamic - almost like a Broadway artist. Had the kids come up, changing her approach for the younger classes - no putdowns, standup for your friends if they're being teased. Mrs. Catarius liked her very much. Martin Malicki asked if we could have a program for the parents at night to bring awareness to what bullying is now. Mrs. Catarius will look into it. Janet Vasel asked if we have any kind of bully referral - Mrs. Catarius stated we do have a form, and an investigation is conducted. The school psychologist is also involved. The staff is trying to make kids more empathetic, and to prevent bullying.

Enrichment - Michele Lavoie - Mrs. Krawciw is our go to person for the teachers, and she is setting up Hi Touch Hi Tech. No word on the author - Mr. Mordechai. We may be on our own this year, as other schools seem to be strapped for money.

Fall Pictures - September 23 - Michele Livingston - went smoothly, came home today

Grants - Paul and Jackie Laperriere - slacked! One thing Paul will start looking into all avenues for grant money for the playscape.

Media Center Coordination - Kim McGrath - complete, no issues!

Membership - Michele Livingston - \$1385 raised so far.
Room Parents - Michelle Bosco/Kim McGrath - complete, everything went out this morning for assignments. All the slots are filled. 2 classes have just one parent.
Sixth Grade - Michele Livingston/Kat Zapor - will be rolling along. Kat will look into the bake sale for the Holiday Store
Tiger Topics/Copying - Andrea Ginter - running a little behind this month, but will be finalized soon.
WSPC - Martin Malicki - mostly bookkeeping. Topic was the appearance of the BOE going into Executive Session, and coming out of Executive Session, and trying to make Dr. McDowell the permanent superintendant. Martin had to leave before the meeting ended, and does not know for sure if a vote was passed.

Family Events -

Bingo - OPEN - several people have indicated interest on the 2 hour pledge. Andrea will contact them.
Dinner on the Lawn - September 16 - Paula Heinemann - went well.
Cornfest - September 18 - Paula Heinzmann/Andrea Ginter - went well, but a waste of time. Might be skipped next year. \$110 in sales, but had to pay out for raffle prizes. \$20 was paid for the spot.
Harvest Fair - October 22 - Kelly Weinberg/Jackie Laperriere - Kelly has someone covering everything - looking forward to it.
Holiday Store - November 30- Amber Kiniry/Lauren Barbara - had a committee meeting earlier this week. Amber is relieved - has a great committee with Lauren - pretty much on track. We do need gift bags - Macy's is donating 400 plastic bags. Will be put on Stripes List. We have about 30 people pledged to help out. Mrs. Catarius suggested a sign up sheet in the lounge for teachers.
Holiday Vendors Night - November 19 - Michele Lavoie - has not heard back from BOE for building use approval. Trying to work with Mr. Coursey so he doesn't have to move the equipment again, may change the date. Kat will check with the one vendor we have to see if she is ok with changing the date.
Movie Night - Kelly Weinberg - can be whenever is a good time. Kelly will work with Mrs. Catarius for the date. Kelly will also look into copyrights and to see if Webb is available.
Open House/Hospitality - September 13-15 - Michelle Bosco - it went well!
Rita's - September 21 - Paul and Jackie Laperriere - it was fun - financially was not so fun. \$92 in profit. We have tentatively discussed doing it again in late spring. Scot Haney advertised the wrong date, but it was still fun. We had a ton of teachers turn out.

Fundraisers -

Box Tops - Amber Kiniry - no flyers out yet, Amber is counting them, about \$370 so far...about \$700 worth estimated. Amber will count and ship them out this weekend.
Book Fair - September 10-17- Andrea Ginter - almost hit budget, but was good. Mrs. Gove as a new teacher was able to pick out \$100 in books. We also have \$400 Scholastic dollars available to spend - may offer to the new teachers, or be used for bin books. Cannot be used for Newbery books.
Comedy Night - November 12 - Michele Lavoie - not really coming along - we need to sell tickets!!! If anyone has a place of business that will allow a flyer to be hung up, please let Michele know.
Entertainment Book - Andrea Ginter - sales are going, little bit slower, but hoping for a last minute surge.
Friends/Family Restaurant Night - Lauren Barbara/Jen Derrick - will be done during TV Turnoff week at Chili's. Just needs approval from Mrs. Catarius. We will get 10% of everything, including drinks, takeout, etc. Teachers will be asked to help out. From 4pm - until whenever. Tuesday April 12 is the tentative date.
Golf Tournament - October 2 - Paul and Jackie Laperriere - awesome job, Paul!!! Numbers aren't completely in, but as of right now, we have raised about \$4000. Mike McKenna will try to get John Daly for next year. Andrea won the Jet Blue tickets, Amber and John Kiniry won the big screen TV. The golf course has been reluctant to charge for the food, which is why our numbers may be higher.
Miscellaneous Fundraisers (Target) - Kelly Weinberg - Currently 27 red card holders. We have 10 new pencil sharpeners and about 100 new pencils from the Big Y program, which will not run again until next year.
Restaurant Discount Cards - OPEN - will be taken off.
Scrap booking - October 24- Michelle Bosco - we have 16 people signed up so far. Last year we had 18, hoping for a little more turnout.

Scrip Gift Card Program - Andrea Ginter/Jen Derrick - only way to do it is to pre buy. Probably not worth it, so at this point, this will be shelved.

Wrapping Paper - Darka Jara - sold about \$5800 worth. Tentative pickup date is November 4th on the EW Stage. Darka will know more and will send out flyers. She needs volunteers - only has one!! Paula has sent around a sign up sheet for anyone interested in helping with the delivery and pickup.

New Business/Open Forum

Janet Vasel - stop and shop points - link to the sign up is at ewpto.com. If you go on the website, you'll see how many points we have.

Martin asked Mrs. Catarius to update us on the technology - we got ELMO's, projectors, and carts. Mrs. Forst in grade 1 is doing a pilot program with the IPIVA. We are still waiting on a price, but Mrs. Catarius really would like a projector mounted so it can be used with the SMARTboards.

Andrea let us know the Volunteers for Fall parent teacher conferences needs a head or volunteers. Mrs. Zaleski and Mrs. Greenblatt at the high school may be able to provide high school students that need volunteer hours. Mrs. Catarius has mentioned that we get very strict with people who come into the school, and to contact her with any questions.

George Bashura still has the offer for the recycleable bottles - putting boxes in each classroom to collect bottles and cans, and reward the winning class with a pizza party or something. Mrs. Catarius will talk to Martin and George about this.

Paul would also like to form a Playscape committee.

Tiger Topics, submissions due by November 5th.

Closing Remarks - made by Paula Heinzmann and Andrea Ginter at 8:18 pm, and thanked everyone for attending.