

February 2011 PTO Meeting Minutes February 10, 2011

Call to Order - Paula Heinzmann and Andrea Ginter called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Principal's Remarks - Mrs Catarius mentioned there have been school security staff around. They are here to help Mrs Catarius - giving recommendations what to do about the parking situation, as an example. There is going to be a crisis manual - what to do in cases of emergency. Mrs Catarius will be sending out a letter shortly informing all parents of what has been going on. CMT's will be administered starting the Monday after February vacation. Kids are looking forward to granola bars and juice. Brenda McLaughlin and Donna Morrison have started a girls literature and writing club. We have started a Wear a Word Wednesday - your children are coming home with a word affixed to them - they must know the meaning of the word they are wearing, and it's a fun way to promote acquisition of a vocabulary.

Secretary's Report - December's report presented by Kat Zapor. Changes - none. Kelly Weinberg made the motion to accept, Martin Malicki seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - presented by Dave Schroeder. Dave revamped some of the reports and presented them to the PTO.

Teacher Representative - none this month...4th grade teachers next month.

Committee Reports - 3 minutes

BOE Liason - George Bashura - fun meeting. Lots was discussed - many communications that were issued in the past few weeks from Dr McDowell. Roof cleanup was discussed - we are in better shape than many other schools. They are discussing into merging the Feb/April vacations into a single March vacation next year and going forward. Looks like there will be an all day Kindergarten in the future, but details are still being worked out. Strategic goals were discussed from a meeting that occurred in September - 3 goals - for the next school year. A possibility was discussed of board members coming to PTO meetings to talk to all of us. Possibly a centralized location, with all of the schools coming together. Martin stated that many people stood up and discussed the lack of communication, including high school students. Andrea asked if there was any word about a search for a permanent Superintendent. Martin stated that there hadn't been any discussion of starting a search, and Dr McDowell's term ends in June. Through the grapevine, it was heard that Michael Emmet was the preferred candidate, and the BOE was waiting for him to become certified, but that is strictly a rumor.

Cheer/Teacher Appreciation - Lauren Barbara/Martina Cacioli - Lauren said in January, Kathleen Peacock did a Tastefully Simple presentation. Michele will be doing one in February. We sent Ms Emmanuel a congratulatory card on her baby.

Community Outreach - Phoebe Ostergren/Martina Cacioli - Martina emailed that she is doing a sweater collection, which ends tomorrow - please donate!

Creative Arts - Martina Cacioli - fundraiser next month - annual fund drive.

Enrichment - Michele Lavoie - Michele emailed - Rob is coming in place of the author - he is the one that does amazing artwork. Paula passed around a page showing his work. He will come on April 29th. Parents won't be able to come - not enough room, sorry! Hi Touch/Hi Tech - Paula passed around a schedule of when that will be happening for your kids.

Grants - Paul and Jackie Laperriere - Jackie found a federal grant for safe/environmentally friendly schools - possibly to be passed along to beautification? Paul applied for the Lowe's toolbox grant for the playscape. We should hear back around May. Paul will keep looking for grants for the playscape as long as he can.

Playscape - Paul and Jackie Laperriere - Paul plans on forming a committee so that we can get more organized. Kelly suggested everyone ask their big name corporate employers if they'll donate anything.

Sixth Grade - Michele Livingston/Kat Zapor - meeting on the 17th at 7pm. Pasta dinner was a huge success - about 180 attended, brought in over \$1200 after expenses. We are done fundraising, just have activities left. We will do a minimal assessment.

Tiger Topics/Copying - Andrea Ginter - deadline due by Feb 11th, please. We are going green, starting in Feb. No more paper copies going home, and a limited number of copies available in the office if anyone wants.

WSPC - Martin Malicki - Michael Emmet came in to their meeting, looking for the PTO's to contribute money to the ROPES program. Our school would be \$6000 - everyone thought ROPE is a great idea, but there's no money in the budgets. Our sixth graders are going to Pine Lake, as we've raised enough money. It is only one day of team building, nothing like previous years. The feeling of the reps was that everyone loves the ROPE program, but the district would look at each PTO to contribute each year - not sure if it's worth it.

Family Events -

Talent Show - Michele Quadrato - will be great - had a wonderful long rehearsal. We have sold 275 tickets so far - have met budget. This year, we added cast messages in the program. We are selling DVD preorders at the door for \$8. DVD's should be ready in a month or a month and a half. We have 43 acts, including a thrilling teacher act, as well as Stripes the Tiger. Please make sure your kids will be there at 6.

Movie Night - Kelly Weinberg - March 25th - Kelly would like to get approval to screen a PG movie - needs to discuss with Mrs. Catarius. More info to follow.

TV Turn Off Week - 4-11 through 4-15 - open - Paula has been working on a few things. Janet suggested we do a sock hop. Andrea suggested we throw Bingo in with TV Turn off.

Bingo Night - OPEN - George Bashura will possibly chair and call it. \$750 budget. Goal is to break even. Historically, no charge to enter. Hamner charges for the card - only regulation is that you cannot charge more than \$1 for admission. George will work on it. Possibly do it in our café this year - maybe wheel in a smart board and put the numbers up. Andrea also volunteered.

Strawberry Fest - Paula Heinzmann/Andrea Ginter - had a meeting on Monday. Will be another meeting every first Monday of every month. Mark your calendars! June 4th is the date. Looking at all kinds of new revamped games - minute to win it styled games. Paul suggested we get his brother, who is a chef, to give some more strawberry recipes try to give it more of a strawberry flavor, to try to attract more people. Paul wanted to get a radio station to come and promote it also.

Fundraisers -

Box Tops - Amber Kiniry - we got the check! \$596.50. We collect them through March. Kids loved the popcorn party. Month of April this year will be a box top contest.

Friends/Family Restaurant Night - Lauren Barbara/Jen Derrick - we need a permit for gambling at Chili's. Will be during TV Turn off week. We get 10% of everything from 4pm on. Will be on Tuesday.

Miscellaneous Fundraisers (Target) - Kelly Weinberg - we have \$130.19 from 27 card holders.

Spring Book Fair - OPEN - Larissa Bashura said she'll help - will be held in Fall, as we can't do Spring.

New Business/Open Forum

DARE graduation was on the 31st. Very nice.

PTO was asked if they would consider paying for desserts and beverages - \$84.20 was the bill - and Paula and Andrea agreed.

PTO closet needs to be cleaned. Janet volunteered to do it. Anthony Dignati ok'd us to store some things in the basement.

Library programs are available for Feb vacation - will be in Tiger Topics.

Uniforms? Suggested by someone who can't make the meetings - please bring up to BOE. George will ask at the next meeting.

Community of Concern booklet - donation requested from PTO - \$2 per 6th grade student. Program that takes over where DARE ends.

Paula read a statement from Michele Lavoie about CoC. 2 websites - I am Dirt and Rachel's Challenge are recommended reading.

Very moving. Channel 14 is featuring Parent To Parent - Rick Garrity will be talking to parents.

Golf Tournament - Paul wants to meet 1st week of March. Needs to start planning - maybe have it in August. May tie in next years Art Show with EB Galleries.

Raffles - we need to fill out correct forms, and get a permit. Andrea will post it on the website. State mandated.

Butter braids will be starting on Monday. Pickup will be at Martin's house, he will provide curbside delivery, and he is broadening his hours.

Closing Remarks - made by Paula Heinzmann and Andrea Ginter at 8:17 pm, and thanked everyone for attending.