

PTA Meeting Notes: 12/6/11 Location: Library

Call to order 7:10pm by Ted Larson, President

All Present: Ted Larson, Scott Lajoie, Joan McMullen, Lyndsay Drew, Neil Marcaccio, Kristin Ways, Carla Jaggi, Linda Whitaker, Amy LaClaire, Ian Drew, Toni Andersen, Jenn Griffin

Introductions

President's Address

Rather than approve meeting minutes we would like to post notes to the website – then vote in.

- Discussed at Executive Board Meeting: Indirect feedback. We Invite people to give feedback directly to PTA leadership. Please come to meetings to raise wants and vote on direction of PTA. Current Executive Board stepped forward for lack of interest by others last Spring. This year we are looking to start Nominating Committee early seeking chairs. VP Joan will be leaving. PTA wants to invite more voices to the table.
- Have the PTA define a goal. Previously there was a goal of building Playground. We want people to have a better understanding of why they are fundraising. Also last year, PTA earmarked 2 working units of DVD/VCR \$2000. Community outreach, finding our successors, having a purpose.

Principal's Report

- Communication and concerns are also being heard second hand. Please come forward and discuss directly with Mr. Maracaccio if there is an issue so he can directly address it. Open to any questions. Information about curriculum, lack of technology/technology use, behavioral issues. Suggestion to possibly use Facebook a regulated blog. Want to initiate a Principal's forum/town hall meeting .
- Aim to better parallel mission of PTA & school administration to deliver curriculum. For parents who are not at the school daily be sure they are receiving information. Possibly Principal could establish open office hours.
- Technology: PTA has earmarked \$2000. Would like to bring some mobile multi-media units. Do all same things as TV/DVD/VCR units promised – and more. Could also do whole class internet search, act as document camera, work in real time paperwork, eliminate need for transparencies. Kids can come up and use their own work. Upper grades – could do Powerpoint presentations. Small demonstration of camera/examples of what could be done. Voice recording, video cam, still cam, microscope, projector, etc. Very versatile. P.O.V. camera –or possibly “hover cams” and get at least 2 full cart set ups going. This can support the new ELA & Math curriculum. Would get teachers to do some training Mr. Maracaccio. Ideally would like to have 3 fully carts using new and existing pieces. Will determine in next week if we would buy through Warwick School Dept. or “off the shelf”. Will give a formal proposal Possible purchase through grants too but final acquisition target by Feb. 1st. Potential to animate the classroom and engage. We can have technology be the driving force for the next 2 years. Feels teachers will use it if there if technical support provided.

Committee Reports

- After School: Chess starting tomorrow. New offerings starting in January. Schedule/prices and registration form will be sent home via paper. Some people saying they are not getting all class/offerings electronically.
- Communications Committee – renewed website for 2 years. Facebook up and running. Listserv and newsletter. Website not getting a lot of hits should consider renewing or not renewing. Discussion of how to drive more traffic, make it vital. Still feel it is important for new incoming parents to find school info.
- VP – Dec. 10th benefit breakfast. Zuler family 2 girls who passed from Pilgrim. Calendar has made a little over \$6000. Harvest fest and Science night both profited. Play made money too with 400 people attending. Nice note from parent read.
- 6th Grade Committee met – Kathy Martion want to do a water colour framed, matted, \$225 gift to the school. Cake will be 3D replica of the school. Can we have a bingo fundraiser. Approved for Jan at 7:50 PM. Bingo night will have a basket raffle with request donated items from classrooms.
- Safety Patrol – could they be recognized at Christmas. Would rather see pizza party. Volunteerism will be recognized. Possibly a breakfast.
- Suggesting again for Cultural Night – students/guardian pairs representing different countries. Need someone to chair it.

Financial Update

- Some field trips were taken. Calendar deposit will be made \$6320. Oct. Made \$1000. Sidewalk Chalk made \$670. Chorus shirt came in a little under budget at \$250. Pepsi challenge from Shaw's will be sent directly to the school.

Teacher's Report

- Toy Story play was amazing. Teacher's and students enjoyed the production last Friday.

New Business

2012 events. Bingo Night for Jan/6th grade. Date TBD. Girls Choice - Ted Larson and Jenn Griffin will start to get plan together. Boys Choice – Toni Andersen willing to chair. Will execute Founder's night in June. Date TBD. Field Trips will continue to support or however class funding best needed. Creating Nominating committee early January. Thank you to all who made time to come tonight.

Old business

Academic Enrichment/Cultural Arts – Celleste Mullane will chair. Book Fair Dec 14th 5-8pm chorus. Working parents can come on Wed. day if they can't come that night.

Motion to adjourn 8:08pm