

# **JAMES FALLON PTO MINUTES OF February 5, 2008 MEETING**



**PTO Co-President Noreen Carlascio called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held in the Cafeteria. Pledge of Allegiance was cited.**

The attendance sheet was circulated together with the January 2008 PTO Minutes and the budget with activity through February 5, 2008.

In attendance were: PTO Members: Noreen Carlascio, Michele DePalma, Jeanine Hassert, Nancy Horbatuk, Beverly Pindulic, Colleen Cardinale, Lori Greene, Erin Corsiglia, Solange Mastroberti, Lisa Rosenkrantz, Denise Pike, Karen Katz, Linda Bukowski, Gina O'Hanna, Joseph Butz, Tina Pontone, Maddalena D'Amico, Teachers: Danielle Bressner, Christine Altieri

## **RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

No report. Beverly asked everyone to review the January PTO minutes.

Noreen Carlascio asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**A motion was made to accept the January 2008 minutes by Lisa Rosenkrantz, seconded by Erin Corsiglia. No discussion on the floor, a vote was taken, all were in favor, motion passed.**

## **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT:** - No Report.

## **TREASURERS' REPORT:** - Given by Lori Greene.

Lori informed everyone that when committees need start up money there will be a separate form to fill out. Checks greater than \$250 should be made out to a vendor.

Lori noted that a copy of the proposed budget with activity through February 5, 2008 was provided for review.

**A motion was made to accept the Budget by Colleen Cardinale, seconded by Jeanine Hassert. A vote was taken, all were in favor, motion passed.**

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** - Given by Jeanine Hassert.

Jeanine attended a Food Service Committee meeting. Sodexo is working on a system whereby parents can replenish their child's account using a credit card. This system will still not itemize what the children purchase. Big Jim's pizza may once again be an option at the elementary schools on a monthly basis. Wayne Valley is hosting a culinary competition on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Any concerns with the food service may be addressed with either Noreen, Michele, or Jeanine.

**Co-PRESIDENTS' REPORT** – Given by Noreen Carlascio and Michele DePalma.

The website will be up and running shortly. A memo from Mr. Maayan will be sent out next week. Noreen has been working on this with our webmaster, Meryl Budnick.

We would like to thank the following committees:

- Thanks to Kate D'Apolito for the "Dancing with the Honeybees" presentation.
- Thanks to Donna Daly for her work on the Fallon Flyer, which should be distributed within a week.
- Thanks to our volunteer coordinators, Laurie Leonard, Carolann Martello and Kim Brown, for organizing volunteers for the Book Fair.
- Thanks to Solange Mastroberti and Denise Pike for keeping the school store up and running.
- Thanks to our Art Appreciation committee, Patti Babich and Erin Marzella. The program has been terrific.
- Thanks to our Media Center chairpeople, John Chiamonte and Sally Schwartz, for their work throughout the year.
- Thanks to the School Spirit committee of Chrissy Brown, Judy McLean and Ellen Puckowitz, for a fabulous Bingo Night.
- Our Book Fair Committee, Erin Corsiglia and Pam Burns, have been busy preparing for the March event.
- Thanks to our Fifth Grade Activities chairpeople, Maria Kelley and Donna Kratzer, for the successful Dare graduation.
- Thanks to the Traffic Committee (made up of Don Pavlak, Sue Hohmann and Mr. Maayan), the traffic problems encountered during drop off and pick up have significantly improved.

"It's a Girl Thing" will be held this Thursday night for our fifth grade girls. "It's a Boy Thing" has been moved to March 5<sup>th</sup>, which is the same evening we will be having our Book Fair night sale.

Mr. Maayan is unable to attend tonight's meeting because he is giving a presentation at the Board of Education.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** - Given by Danielle Bressner

Pending Board approval, Bethany Sotsky has been chosen to replace second grade teacher Rose Guselli from March 10<sup>th</sup> through June 2<sup>nd</sup>. She will then replace fifth grade teacher Tina Loureiro from June 2<sup>nd</sup> until the end of the school year. Ms. Sotsky was chosen from a group of five finalists. Each finalist was required to teach a demonstration lesson in Mrs. Guselli's class.

Our traffic problems have definitely improved due to the letter sent out to parents, and the increased police presence in the parking lot. We will make every effort to continue to improve this situation.

The Parent Notification System is now in effect. This system will notify families of emergencies, school closings, early dismissals etc.

Many different donations from the PTO have been discussed at previous meetings:

- Chairs – The principal and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers agree that these chairs would be a great help. We checked with the schools that have the chairs with baskets underneath, and they do stack up. We obtained a price quote from Hertz Furniture for 90 chairs for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders at \$5,232.37.
- Connected Classrooms – Mr. Maayan, Mrs. Carlascio, Mrs. DePalma, Mrs. Caplan and Mrs. Montgomery visited Randall Carter on January 18<sup>th</sup> to observe two classes using Connected Classrooms. Mr. Maayan, the teachers and the PTO presidents agree that having a connected classroom would be beneficial for the students. The price of one Connected Classroom is \$4,000.
- Everyday Math online games – We are waiting for approval and price.

The website is almost ready to go. Thank you to Mrs. Budnick for all of her hard work.

The following events took place recently :

- “Dancing with the Honeybees” cultural enrichment assembly was presented.
- We had an “Officer Phil” assembly for grades K-4.
- Kindergarten changeover was on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

The following are upcoming events:

- Family Science will be this week on Wednesday. Next Tuesday will be the last meeting.
- “It’s a Girl Thing” will be on February 7<sup>th</sup> with Mrs. Scian.
- Kindergarten Registration will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The Second Grade program will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The performance will be at 9:00 AM for students and 2:00 PM for parents.
- School will be closed on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Book Fair will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
- “It’s a Boy Thing” will be on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**TEACHERS' REPORT** Given by Danielle Bressner.

The teachers wished to thank the PTO for the Honeybees and Officer Phil presentations. They also wanted to thank the art mothers for the informative and creative lessons. They are looking forward to the Book Fair.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ART APPRECIATION** – No report.

**BACK TO SCHOOL PACKAGE** – No report.

**BIRTHDAY LUNCH** – No Report.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON** – No report.

**BOOK FAIR** – Given by Erin Corsiglia.

We are looking for a volunteer to wear a costume for the Book Fair. Our theme is the “Road to Reading”. If anyone has old suitcases that they are willing to loan, we would like to utilize them for our teacher donations.

**Erin Corsiglia made a motion to provide each child with a \$5 voucher to purchase books at the Book Fair. Jeanine Hassert seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.**

The Book Fair committee would also like to purchase “Build-a-Book” sets. They are crafts whereby children could make and decorate a small book to be donated to whatever cause the children chose (ex. Children in hospitals, soldiers etc.) This would be a service project. The books cost \$3.75. We will discuss this further in new business.

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE:** - Given by Lisa Rosenkrantz.

For Earth Day we would like to purchase a re-usable grocery bag for each child. We are researching the cost of bags with the Fallon logo. We could also sell these bags at the school store. The cost would be approximately \$700. We will discuss this further in new business.

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION & INK JETS** –No report.

**CLASS PARENT COORDINATION** – No report.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** - No report.

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT** - No report.

**FALL FUNDRAISER (TRICKY TRAY)** - No report.

**FALL FUNDRAISER (KIDSTUFF)** – No report.

**FIFTH GRADE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE** – No report.

**FIFTH GRADE DAY** - No report.

**FIELD DAY** – No report.

**FIFTH GRADE ACTIVITIES** - No report.

**HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE** - No report.

**HOSPITALITY COORDINATORS – SPECIAL EVENTS** - No report.

**HOSPITALITY COORDINATORS – TEACHER APPRECIATION** - Given by Gina O’Hanna.

Teacher Appreciation week is the week of May 5<sup>th</sup>. We would like to follow what was done in prior years:

- Monday – gifts for the teachers and faculty
- Tuesday – Breakfast
- Wednesday – Cookies from the Student Council
- Thursday – Luncheon
- Friday – Plants from the Plant Sale

This year our budget was reduced by \$150 to offset the cost of the PTO Holiday party. Our committee would like to request an additional \$225. This will be addressed in new business.

**MEMBERSHIP** – No report.

**MEDIA CENTER** – No report.

**MEDIA FUND** – No report.

**NEWSLETTER** – No report.

**PLANT SALE** – No report.

**PUBLICITY** – No report.

**READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM** – No report.

**SCHOOL DIRECTORY** – No report.

**SCHOOL PHOTO** – No report.

**SCHOOL SIGN COORDINATOR** – No report.

**SCHOOL SPIRIT** – No report.

**SCHOOL STORE** – No report.

**SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR** – No report.

**SPA REPRESENTATIVE** – No report.

**SPRING FUNDRAISER** – No Report.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT LIAISON** – No report.

**SUNSHINE** – Given by Karen Katz.

The Sunshine committee has a budget of \$650.50 which is to be used for gifts to the staff during the holidays and at the end of the year. It is also used for cards for members of our community. This year we purchased a gift for the individual who did the work on the school sign, and also for Mr. Domenic when he had surgery. Our committee would like to request an additional \$225. A vote will be taken in new business.

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS** – No report.

**WAYS & MEANS** – No report.

**WEB PHOTO COORDINATOR** – No report.

**WEBMASTER** – No report.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Michele and Noreen went to Randall Carter to see the Connected Classroom. The state has granted two of these per school. It is a large flat screen TV which is mounted on the wall and connected to the internet. Mrs. Montgomery thought they would be useful, and Mrs. Caplan was not so sure. Mrs. Bressner and Mrs Altieri felt they would not be needed for the younger grades. Because of the expense of these items (\$4,000), and since we will be getting two of these in September, we will hold off on purchasing any Connected Classrooms at this time.

We ordered the Purell which was discussed at our last meeting. Mr. Domenic will keep the stock and distribute it to the teachers as needed.

At our last meeting we allocated \$300 for the purchase of DVDs and mounts for three classrooms. These items have been ordered.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

We have \$6400 leftover from last year, and approximately \$10,000 in excess funds from the tricky tray (the approximate amount by which the tricky tray exceeded its \$16,000 budget). This gives us a total of \$16,400 which we may allocate and spend.

At a prior meeting we discussed purchasing chairs with baskets. There was some concern as to whether they could stack for cleaning, but it was determined that they can. When the children switch classrooms, they would have a place to put their books. The

total cost would be \$5,232.37 which includes shipping. This would give us 90 chairs for the fifth grade.

**Erin Corsiglia made a motion to dedicate \$5,233 for the purchase of chairs with baskets for the Fifth grade. Karen Katz seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.**

We discussed the “Build-a-Book” concept that the Book Fair Committee had suggested. The teachers felt that the children could work in groups of four or five students to make the books. If we purchased five books for each of the 21 classes, our total cost would be approximately \$393.75 (105 books at \$3.75) without shipping. This total might vary slightly based on the number of students in each class.

**Erin Corsiglia made a motion to dedicate up to \$500 for the purchase of “Build-a-Books” for each classroom. Jeanine Hassert seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.**

**Karen Katz made a motion to increase the Sunshine Committee’s budget by up to \$225. Erin Corsiglia seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.**

**Erin Corsiglia made a motion to dedicate up to \$700 for the purchase of re-usable bags to be distributed on Earth Day. Tina Pontone seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.**

**Gina O’Hanna made a motion to increase the Teacher Appreciation budget by up to \$225. Denise Pike seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.**

**OPEN DISCUSSION:**

Michele wanted everyone to start thinking about what fundraiser we would like to have in September. At least two other schools will be having Tricky Trays. Some other options are casino nights, silent auctions and comedy nights. We also could go back to doing Innisbrook. We will discuss this further at our next meeting.

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Erin Corsiglia, seconded by Tina Pontone. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.**

**Respectively submitted by Beverly Pindulic, Recording Secretary.**

**Approved: \_\_\_\_\_**

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**Beverly Pindulic, Recording Secretary**