

JAMES FALLON PTO MINUTES OF April 8, 2008 MEETING



At 7:30 p.m., Cynthia Randina, Interim Superintendent of Schools, presided over a presentation of the proposed 2008/09 budget. PTO Co-President Noreen Carlascio called the regular meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. in the Media Center. Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

The attendance sheet was circulated together with the March 2008 PTO Minutes and the budget with activity through April 8, 2008.

In attendance were: PTO Members: Noreen Carlascio, Michele DePalma, Jeanine Hassert, Nancy Horbatuk, Beverly Pindulic, Colleen Cardinale, Lori Greene, Denise Pike, Solange Mastroberti, Joyce Duncan, Kiki Graham, Deb Valente, Pam Burns, Joseph Butz, Gina Okun, Lisa George Teachers: Mrs. Bedosky, Mrs. Cornetta

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Beverly asked everyone to review the March PTO minutes.

A motion was made to accept the March 2008 minutes by Denise Pike, seconded by Gina Okun. 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 noted that a copy of the proposed budget with activity through April 8, 2008 was provided for review. Lori also requested that committee members submit all requests for reimbursement in a timely manner, since the PTO has a fiscal year end of June 30th.

A motion was made to accept the Budget by Joyce Duncan, seconded by Denise Pike. A vote was taken, all were in favor, motion passed.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: - No report.

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

April 08

Our PTO webpage is up and running. We encourage everyone to click on the "Be Notified" button. This will notify you via e-mail whenever there is an update to the website.

Our nominating committee is in place. They are charged with recommending a slate of officers for next year's Executive Board. The committee members are Jari D'Alessandro, Sue Hohmann, Tina Pontone, Tiffany Roth and Lisa Tundo.

Since our last PTO meeting, the following events have taken place:

- Our food drive was very successful.
- Skate night was a lot of fun.
- The art show was once again a great success.
- Reading incentive began, and will run through April 25th.
- Our box tops incentive program ended, and coupons for the school store were distributed.
- Our spiritwear sale ended.

The following are some upcoming events:

- Our Earth Day celebration will be held on April 16th.
- The Wayne Alliance basketball game is April 18th.
- Cultural Enrichment's "Bodacious Book Show" will be held on April 25th.
- May 5th to May 9th is Teacher Appreciation Week.
- May 9th is our student plant sale. The adult gift card sale is going on now.
- Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13th.

We would like to thank the following committees:

- Jari D'Alessandro has done a great job in running our box tops incentive contest. Our school store chairpeople worked with Jari in providing school store gift certificates to the winners.
- Thanks to our Community Outreach chairperson, Julie Boylan, for running the food drive.
- Thanks to our School Spirit committee, Chrissy Brown, Judy McLean and Ellen Puckowitz, for a terrific skate night.
- Thanks to our Art Appreciation chair people, Erin Marzella and Patti Babich, for a wonderful art show.
- Thanks to our spirit wear committee, Gabrielle Nicoella and Andrea Carr, for the Spring spirit wear sale. Thanks also to Jeanine Hassert for her assistance.
- Thanks to our Reading Incentive committee, Amy Marshall and Gina Okun, for running this program.
- Thanks to Kiki Graham for her ongoing publicity efforts. Thanks also to Joyce Duncan for taping the First Grade program.
- Thanks to Joe Butz for getting the photos on our website.
- Thanks to those who volunteered to be on our nominating committee.
- Thanks to the teachers for all of the test preparation for the children.

Mr. Maayan and Miss Gracia will be participating in the Wayne Alliance basketball game. Advance tickets are available at \$8 for children and \$10 for adults.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: - Given by Mrs. Bedosky.

Mr. Maayan apologizes for having to leave tonight's meeting. He oversees the elementary Art, Phys. Ed. And Music programs and needs to attend the All Wayne Band and Chorus concert at Wayne Hills H.S.

Speech teacher Jennifer Hamilton will be returning from maternity leave on April 14th. We would like to thank Ron Van Dunk for doing a great job as her replacement.

The 3rd and 4th grades have completed their NJ ASK testing and grades 3 and 5 have completed their test of cognitive skills. The 5th grade will be taking their NJ ASK test during the week of May 5th. The 1st and 2nd grades have completed their NJ PASS testing.

We were able to fund a 5th grade NJ ASK test preparation program. Students identified as being under or around the proficient and advanced proficient areas on last year's test were invited to join this five week program in Math and/or Language Arts. Thank you to Mrs. Polizzotto and Mrs. Caplan for agreeing to teach these classes. We have asked central office to continue this program next year for our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.

We would like to request that the PTO purchase Every Day Math online games at a cost of \$4,600 for the entire school for one year.

The following events took place recently :

- Our first grade show, "Community Helpers" was presented yesterday and was a huge success. The program was a tribute to policemen, firefighters and all of our community helpers. Thank you to Mrs. Altieri, Mrs. Bressner, Mrs. Houlihan, Ms. Corsaro and Mr. Santoro for working so hard to make this show a success.
- Our Mini-Invention competition took place on Tuesday April 1st. It was amazing to see all of the great inventions created by the Fallon students. Thank you to Mrs. Altamura and Mrs. Thomas for organizing this great event. I would also like to thank judges Mr. and Mrs. Farrah and Ms. Ray for volunteering their time and efforts. The winning inventions will be on display on Election Day on April 15th.
- Our second annual Art Show was held last night in the gymnasium. Mrs. Babich, Mrs. Marzella and all the art moms are to be commended for organizing this exciting event. Our students' fine art work was displayed on the walls, easels and on tables throughout the gym. One of the highlights was this year's Fifth Grade masterpiece, which was based on Andy Warhol's work.
- Thank you to officers Colella and Corsiglia for presenting the internet safety program to our 4th graders today. The program was interesting and informative.

The following are upcoming events:

- Our Spring Reading Incentive program will run from April 7th through April 25th.
- First grade DNA testing will be on April 8th.
- District kindergarten orientation will be held on April 9th at Ryerson School.
- April 14th is 4th grade outdoor lab.
- April 15th is the school board/budget election.
- Our Earth Day celebration will be held on April 16th with a rain date of April 17th.

- April 18th is April Birthday Lunches, and also the Wayne Alliance basketball game.
- April 23rd is the Fifth Grade trip to Medieval Times.
- April 24th is the Second Grade trip to the Turtle Back Zoo.
- April 25th is the Bodacious Book Show assembly.
- Spring Break will be the week of April 28th.
- May 5th through May 9th is Teacher Appreciation Week.
- May 8th is the Fourth Grade trip to the Meadowlands Environmental Center.
- May 9th is the PTO plant sale. The Fifth graders will visit Anthony Wayne MS. It is also School Spirit Day.
- May 13th is Kindergarten Orientation.

TEACHERS' REPORT Given by Mrs. Bedosky.

The teachers wished to thank the PTO for the Build-a-Books. Mrs. Maggio wanted to thank the PTO for the key chains and charms for Reading Incentive. The teachers loved the art show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ART APPRECIATION – No report.

BACK TO SCHOOL PACKAGE – No report.

BIRTHDAY LUNCH – No Report.

BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON – No report.

BOOK FAIR – No report.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: - No report.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION & INK JETS –No report.

CLASS PARENT COORDINATION – Given by Joyce Duncan.

Class parents are asked to communicate with each other across grade levels to promote uniformity in the parties. There is a district-wide push for healthier snacks. No siblings should be present at PTO events.

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 - No report.

MEMBERSHIP – No report.

MEDIA CENTER – No report.

MEDIA FUND – No report.

NEWSLETTER – No report.

PLANT SALE – No report.

PUBLICITY – Given by Kiki Graham.

Thanks to Joyce Duncan for taping the first grade program.

READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM – Given by Gina Okun.

Our incentive program is underway. A new form will be distributed each week, and is also available on our website. Any reading material the child chooses will be acceptable.

SAFETY – 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 – No report.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS – No report.

WAYS & MEANS – No report.

WEB PHOTO COORDINATOR – Given by Joe Butz.

The photos for the latest bulletin boards have been taken and will be updated shortly.

WEBMASTER – No report.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

There will be a new PTO committee for Food Service Liaison. Jeanine Hassert is currently attending meetings with Sodexo and bringing them any parent concerns.

Joyce Duncan mentioned that the PTO council voted to support our proposed school budget. The Fallon community should vote as to whether or not we support this budget.

Pam Burns made a motion for the James Fallon PTO to support the 2008/09 proposed budget. The motion was seconded by Kiki Graham. No discussion on the floor, a vote was taken, all were in favor, motion passed.

A discussion ensued regarding next year's Fall Fundraiser. We cannot run another tricky tray since at least two other schools have tricky trays scheduled for the Fall. We need a large Fall fundraiser to carry our budget. Pam Burns questioned whether we could take some of the excess money from this year's tricky tray and use it to fund next year's budget. Lori Greene explained that money cannot be carried over without designating a specific use.

Innisbrook was discussed in terms of consistency in the amount of money raised, and relative ease in running the event. In the past we have received 50% plus 5% of all sales. Joyce Duncan stated that she didn't think we would get the 5% any more.

Kiki Graham made a motion to utilize Innisbrook for the Fall Fundraiser. The motion was seconded by Joe Butz. No discussion on the floor, a vote was taken, all were in favor, motion passed.

Lori Greene stated that for our May meeting she would have an estimate of how much excess money we would have to allocate. Teachers and parents should begin thinking about some needs that the school might have.

Denise Pike mentioned that since the school store did so well this year, the committee would like to purchase a small item from the store for each student. If a pencil was provided to each student it would cost approximately \$166 (.37 x 449 students). It was

decided that a small item could be purchased for each student within the current school store budget.

The idea of providing a Fallon shirt to every incoming Kindergartener was discussed. It was decided not to pursue this, since it would set a precedent for future years.

Mr. Maayan's suggestion regarding the purchase of Every Day Math online games was discussed. It was decided that \$4600 for one year was very expensive. We will not pursue this purchase at this time.

Nancy Horbatuk spoke with Mr. Maayan regarding the world and USA map on the wall. She is obtaining a quote from a local artist. She will e-mail the teachers regarding their preferences with respect to this map. We will discuss this further at our next meeting.

Nancy Provox' nephew, Frank Adamo, recently passed away. He was a student at Randall Carter. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the Tomorrow's Childrens' Fund.

Joyce Duncan made a motion to donate \$100 to the Tomorrow's Childrens' Fund in memory of Frank Adamo. The motion was seconded by Kiki Graham. No discussion on the floor, a vote was taken, all were in favor, motion passed.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

A discussion ensued regarding last month's PTO meeting as it related to fifth grade concerns and standardized testing. Everyone agreed that open communication was essential in addressing all concerns.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Kiki Graham, seconded by Joyce Duncan. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Beverly Pindulic, Recording Secretary.

Approved: _____

Beverly Pindulic, Recording Secretary