

# **JAMES FALLON PTO MINUTES OF September 18, 2007 MEETING**



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

The attendance sheet was circulated together with the May 2007 PTO Minutes and the proposed budget with activity through September 18, 2007.

In attendance were: PTO Members: Noreen Carlascio, Michelle DePalma, Nancy Horbatuk, Jeanine Hassert, Beverly Pindulic, Lori Greene, Colleen Cardinale, Joseph Butz, Tiffany Roth, Lisa Rosenkrantz, Jari D'Alessandro, Christine Colella, Stacey Hartley, Andrea Carr, Kate D'Apolito, Gabrielle Nicolella, Marianne Salvatore, Jennifer Schneider, Patti Babich, Ellen Puckowitz, Amy Marshall, Sally Schwartz, Janice Lougheed, Nancy Leotsakas, Linda Bukowski, Denise Pike, Solange Mastroberti, Amy Kirkman, Karen Katz, Linda De Gennaro, Pamela Burns, Kelly Menzel, Maddalena D'Amico, Tina Pontone Teachers: Mrs. Caplan, Mrs. Loureiro and Mr. Maio

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

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

Noreen Carlascio asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**A motion was made to accept the May 2007 minutes by Gabrielle Nicolella, seconded by Lisa Rosenkrantz. 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 September 18, 2007 was provided for review.

**A motion was made to accept the Budget by Gabrielle Nicolella, seconded by Tiffany Roth. Amy Kirkman questioned whether the cost of the fifth grade tee shirts was included in the move-up day budget. Lori Greene responded that it was. A vote was taken, all were in favor, motion passed.**

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** - Given by Nancy Horbatuk

A meeting was held yesterday for all committee chairpeople. Each committee was provided with a folder containing important information, including who to contact if questions should arise. There is a new committee report that will be filled out after each event. This form will provide feedback and valuable information for the next people who will run that committee.

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

- Noreen reminded everyone that only chairpeople may vote at PTO meetings.
- PTO volunteers should limit their time in the office as much as possible.
- Upcoming events:
  - The Fallon Flyer deadline is September 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Picture day is also September 28<sup>th</sup>
  - The class parent meeting will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - The Kidstuff sale will kick off on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Fallon website is being updated for teacher pages, as well as the calendar and the cafeteria menu. There will soon be a PTO section, and each committee will be required to include some information. Everyone will be notified when this is in place.
- Michelle thanked the following committees who worked during the summer months:
  - Lori Greene and Carol Ann Martello for organizing and assembling the back to school package.
  - Patti Babich and Erin Marzella for preparing the Art Appreciation projects for the upcoming year.
  - Thanks to everyone who assisted in making the ice cream social so successful. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton for donating the ice cream.
  - Thanks to Bob Martello for working with the beautification committee and installing the pavers.
  - Thanks to the beautification committee, Tiffany Roth and Lisa Rosenkrantz, for making the school look so wonderful.
  - Thanks to the School Store committee, Denise Pike and Solange Mastroberti, for having the store up and running so efficiently.
  - Thanks to the Sunshine Committee, Amy Kirkman and Karen Katz, for sending cards on behalf of the PTO during the summer.
  - Thanks to Mary Ann Salvatore for all her hard work in collecting and recording the PTO membership money.

- Thanks to Jari D'Alessandro for researching and organizing the Box Tops and Ink Jet collections.
- Thanks to Kate D'Apolito for organizing the cultural enrichment events.
- Thanks to Tina Pontone and Linda De Gennaro for all of their hard work in organizing the Tricky Tray which will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Thanks to Linda Milone for organizing and preparing the Kidstuff sale.
- Thanks to Donna Daly for having the Fallon Flier prepared in time to be included in the Back to School package.
- Thanks to Janice Lougheed and Nancy Leotsakas for changing the school sign.
- Thanks to Mr. Maio for cleaning up and landscaping the school grounds.
- Thanks to Mr. Dominic and the staff for getting the school ready and making everything look so beautiful.
- Thanks to Carol and Mr. Maayan for their hard work all summer.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** - Given by Mr. Maayan

- Thank you to Mrs. Rugel and Mrs. Hassert and all of the PTO officers from last year.
- Good luck to Mrs. DePalma, Mrs. Carlascio and our new executive board. Thank you to all the PTO members who are chairing and involved in committees. Thanks to the fifth grade teachers for coming to tonight's meeting.
- We had a great opening for our 451 students. There were very few problems. Next year we will consider having everyone line up in the back parking lot on the first day, since the buses drive into the front. Another alternative for the first day of school would be to have the buses drop the children off at the Clifford Drive entrance to the school without pulling into the parking lot.
- We opened a new second grade section and closed a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. As a result, we have our art room back!
- Regarding staffing, Christina Altieri and Danielle Bressner returned in the first grade. Peggie Biondo and Anna Montgomery returned to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We have some teachers with new names due to summer marriages. Ms. Sexton is now Mrs. Houlihan, Ms. Ehlers is now Mrs. Venezia, Ms. Peso is now Mrs. Loureiro and Ms. Mayer is now Mrs. Olivo. Mrs. Venezia has moved from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Jodi Jensen will continue to fill in for Mrs. Maggio until she returns on October 29<sup>th</sup>. School Psychologist Jenny An is replacing Jen Nyuis while she is on maternity leave. Katie Winkel is now Mrs. Manwaring and is our new BSIP teacher. Rosalie Valario is our new Art Teacher and Ivette March and Luisa Witter are joining Mrs. Guarino in the World Language Department. Peter Brill and Steve Guttman are each teaching two periods of Phys. Ed.
- The Site Based Committee will consist of the following parents: Michele DePalma, Noreen Carlascio, Rosella Autiero and Erin Corsiglia. The teacher representatives will be Jo-Ellen Polizzotto, Tina Loureiro, Linda Bursik and Kathy Gonzalez.

- Our ice cream social was once again very successful. Thank you to our speech teacher, Jen Hamilton and her husband James for donating all of the Rita's Ices.
- Thank you to the PTO for the teachers' breakfast on September 4th.
- Back to school night will be Wednesday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.
- We will have more code red and code green drills, including block fire drills (where an exit is blocked and the teachers must use an alternate exit).
- I have met with Don Pavlak and have spoken with Chris Corsiglia who are our Safety Chairmen regarding some parking lot changes. At the end of the day, the crossing guard will barricade the entrance once the lot is full. Also there will be no left turn out of the school driveway onto Clifford Drive. In addition a stop sign will be placed at the end of the driveway.
- Once again, parents will be required to sign in at all assemblies.
- School Spirit Day will once again be held on the first Friday of each month.
- This Friday will be our September birthday lunch.
- The student council election is underway.
- A new emergency notification system is being implemented in the district. Emergency card data will be entered into an online system.
- Tie-Net is an online curriculum. Mrs. Caplan explained that it is a resource for parents and can provide links with homework help.
- Study Island – Test prep for grades 3,4 and 5. A parent line is coming.
- Everyday Math – There will be two parent workshops in October.
- Easy Tech – Technology program.
- Connected Classrooms – This is one suggestion that the PTO might consider purchasing with leftover funds from last year. The cost is approximately \$4,000 per unit. They are monitors which connect to a computer as well as DVDs. Mrs. Caplan commented that these items have potential as an educational tool.
- Our EPIS Counselor has requested that the PTO provide \$400 for “Red Ribbon Week”. It would be held October 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup> and would encourage children to make good choices when it comes to drugs and violence.
- Joyce Duncan asked Mr. Maayan whether the children were allowed to use balls at recess. He responded that footballs may be used to play catch only. No balls will be permitted on 'blacktop only' days.

**TEACHERS' REPORT** Given by Mr. Maio.

The teachers wished to thank the PTO for the ice cream social, breakfast on the first day of school, and the planners. We are off to a great start, and looking forward to a wonderful year!

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ART APPRECIATION** – Given by Patti Babich.

All projects are detailed on the bulletin board by the cafeteria. We will once again prepare a fifth grade masterpiece. Erin Marzella and Mary Ann Scibetta will work on this as well.

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

**BIRTHDAY LUNCH** – No Report.

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

**BOOK FAIR** – No report.

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE:** - Given by Tiffany Roth.

There were 25 pavers installed over the summer with a profit of \$357. The beautification committee is recommending re-doing the landscaping around the sign at the entrance to the school. Bob Martello has volunteered his services to install a Belgian block wall around the sign. We would have some low maintenance plants donated. They also inquired as to whether inflatable decorations could be used outside the school. Mr. Maayan said that large ones which might block windows are not recommended due to safety.

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION & INK JETS** – Given by Jari D'Alessandro.

There is a collection box for box tops and ink jets in the front hallway. We are considering holding a competition to see which class can collect the most box tops. The website "BoxTops.com" has a list of internet sites that you can order from, which will also earn money for the school. Even Oriental Trading orders can earn us money. We hope to have a list of these sites put in the October Fallon Flier.

Many home and business printer cartridges are accepted, but the list is continually changing.

**CLASS PARENT COORDINATION** – Given by Joyce Duncan.

Class parents will be picked by early next week. There will be a meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** - No report.

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT** - Given by Kate D'Apolito.

On September 27<sup>th</sup> there will be a "Meet the Musicians" presentation on the life of Beethoven. In October the St. Barnabas burn unit will again educate our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. In November, the Pushcart Players will present "A Season of Miracles" which is a tale of holiday cultures.

**FALL FUNDRAISER (TRICKY TRAY)** - Given by Tina Pontone.

The Tricky Tray will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Tickets will go on sale tomorrow at Back to School Night. Tickets cost \$45 which will include dinner and a sheet of tickets. There are 450 seats available. Tina recommended that anyone interested in attending the Tricky Tray bring a check tomorrow night, since she anticipates that the tickets will sell out quickly.

The Tricky Tray committee is accepting donations for gift baskets. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted and checks may be made out to the James Fallon PTO.

Anyone who volunteered to help at the Tricky Tray will be contacted shortly.

We will also be selling ads for the tricky tray. Business card sized ads will cost \$25, 1/2 page will cost \$50 and a full page will cost \$75. It was suggested that boosters might also be offered to parents who wish to pay to have a message printed.

**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** – Given by Mary Ann Salvatore.

To date we have 261 paid members. In order to volunteer at PTO functions you must be a paid PTO member. The cost is \$5 per family.

**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** – Given by Patti Babich.

School pictures will be taken next Friday (September 28<sup>th</sup>).

**SCHOOL SIGN COORDINATOR** – No report.

**SCHOOL SPIRIT** – Given by Patti Babich.

Halloween DJ night will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 until 9:00. We will also host a NJ Devils night, a Bingo night, and a Jackals Baseball night.

**SCHOOL STORE** – No report.

**SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR** – Given by Andrea Carr.

We will extend the deadline for ordering spiritwear until this Friday. We will have also sell these items in the Spring. Michelle De Palma suggested putting the order forms out tomorrow evening at Back to School Night. The display case should be taken down by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**SPA REPRESENTATIVE** – No report.

**SPRING FUNDRAISER** – No Report.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT LIAISON** – No report.

**SUNSHINE** – Given by Amy Kirkman.

Amy requested that anyone who is aware of a happy or sad occasion within our Fallon community to inform either Amy or Karen Katz so that they can send the appropriate card. Often scholarship cards are purchased in the recipient's name. The committee is also responsible for purchasing gifts for Secretary's Day, School Nurse's Day etc. on behalf of the PTO.

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS** – No report.

**WAYS & MEANS** – No report.

**WEB PHOTO COORDINATOR** – No report.

**WEBMASTER** – No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Noreen asked if anyone would be interested in changing the time of the PTO meeting from 7:30 to 7:00. No one seemed to be in favor of the change.

We have a surplus of approximately \$10,000 leftover from the 2006/07 school year. A discussion ensued regarding possible uses for this money.

Mrs. Milone, our new EPIS counselor, has requested \$400 for a “Red Ribbon” program which teaches children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

**Tiffany Roth made a motion to give up to \$400 to Mrs. Milone for the Red Ribbon Program. Joe Butz seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

Tiffany Roth requested \$760 for pavers that could be installed around the Fallon sign at the entrance to the school. A Fallon parent has volunteered to install the pavers at no cost. They would be 1 foot high going up to 3 feet. There would still be access to the sign. Joyce Duncan mentioned concern that PTO funds should go directly to benefit the children. Mr. Maayan will speak with Building Services regarding this idea.

Amy Kirkman suggested painting new lines on the blacktop for hopscotch, boxball etc. She also mentioned the possible need for an outdoor tent to block the heat. Mr. Maayan mentioned that storage is a problem. Amy will get some prices before our next meeting.

Nancy Horbatuk mentioned the death of Sgt. Thomas Deppa who recently died of lung cancer, leaving behind a disabled wife. The Deppa children attend Wayne schools.

**Andrea Carr made a motion to donate \$1,000 to the Deppa family. The motion was seconded by Linda DeGennarro. There was some discussion as to how much money other Wayne schools were giving to this family. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

## **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

Andrea Carr questioned whether the PTO could donate a basket with Fallon Spiritwear to the Tricky Tray. Lori Greene said that since we do not have enough stock, we would need to purchase the Spiritwear to donate. The Tricky Tray committee could purchase Fallon Spiritwear, and it would simply show up as an additional expense on their budget.

Joe Butz mentioned that Microsoft and Scholastic have teamed up and will donate 1 cent for every search. He will check further and see what this entails.

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Tiffany Roth, seconded by Lisa Rosenkrantz. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.**

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

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

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**Beverly Pindulic, Recording Secretary**