

# **JAMES FALLON PTO MINUTES OF September 23, 2008 MEETING**



**PTO Co-President Noreen Carlascio called the regular meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. The meeting was held in the Media Center. Pledge of Allegiance was cited.**

The attendance sheet was circulated together with the May 2008 PTO Minutes and the proposed budget with activity through September 23, 2008.

In attendance were: PTO Members: Noreen Carlascio, Michele DePalma, Jeanine Hassert, Beverly Pindulic, Lori Greene, Colleen Cardinale, Sue Hohmann, Debbie Jaeger, Erin Marzella, Deb Valente, Solange Mastroberti, Karen Katz, Nancy Horbatuk, Dawn Werr, Kelly Menzel, Loraine O'Toole, Gina O'Hanna, Joseph Butz, Barbara Howell, Jari D'Alessandro, Karen Alexander, Desiree Sokoli, Christine Salzone, Jennifer Burchell, John Chiamonte, Gena Ugliarolo, Christine Brown, Maddalena D'Amico, Kate D'Apolito, Dina Lucariello, Dawn Werr, Kelly Menzel, Gina Okun, Scott Okun, Barbara Hanners, Melda Yildiz, Patti Babich, Principal: Ethan Maayan 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 2008 minutes by Gina Okun, seconded by Joe Butz. 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 23, 2008 was provided for review.

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

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

Jeanine is the Interim Vice President. Anyone interested in joining the executive board next year should see Jeanine.

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

Noreen reminded everyone that only chairpeople may vote at PTO meetings.

The PTO has been busy since June:

- Thanks to Lori Greene for assembling the Back-To-School Package.
- Thanks to Robert Martello for installing the pavers and sprucing up the sign area.
- Thanks to Chrissy Brown, Judy McLean and Ellen Puckowitz for organizing our 4<sup>th</sup> ice cream social. They added a DJ, and the event was a tremendous success.
- Thanks to the hospitality coordinators who organized the teachers' "Welcome Back" breakfast. They were Christine Salzone and Desiree Sokoli. They also prepared tonight's refreshments and organized refreshments for Back to School Night.
- Thanks to our Beautification chairs, Dina Lucariello and Hasina Pathan, for decorating the lobby to welcome our students.
- Thanks to the spiritwear committee of Tina Pontone and Linda DeGennaro. They have a much wider variety of Fallon Funwear available to the students. Thanks also to our new vendors, Erin Corsiglia and Suzanne Haneveld.
- Thanks to Colleen Cardinale for planning the PTO's end of year dinner.
- Thanks to the Fall Fundraising Committee. Our Fall Fundraiser runs our PTO budget for the entire year. We encourage everyone to participate.
- Thanks to Solange Mastroberti and Denise Pike for their continuous efforts in updating our school sign.
- Thanks to our School Store committee, Christine Coppola and Tania Joyner, for getting our school store up and running.
- Thanks to our Sunshine Committee, Gena and Joe Ugliarolo, for providing a gift for Carol Occhiuzzi's birthday. Please notify Gena and Joe if you are aware of any events within our Fallon family which require a gift or expression of sympathy.
- Thanks to our Webmaster, Meryl Budnick, for her hard work. The forms which were sent home in our Back to School Package are available on our website. Please click the "Be Notified" button for e-mail notification of updates to the site.

Upcoming events:

- Our Innisbrook sale will end on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The Cultural Enrichment assembly, "Schoolhouse Rock" will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. We will also host the St. Barnabas burn unit for our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Kate D'Apolito and Karen Katz for their hard work in organizing these events.
- A class parent meeting will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in the cafeteria.
- Picture day is Friday October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks to Nancy Horbatuk for chairing this committee.

- The Entertainment Book sale will begin on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks to committee chairs Kelly Menzel and Dawn Werr.

Thanks to Mr. Maayan, Carol Occhiuzzi, and Mr. Dominic for the tremendous support they provide to the PTO throughout the year.

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

Thank you to Mrs. DePalma, Mrs. Carlascio, and last year's officers and committee chairs for doing a fantastic job last year. Thanks to the new officers and chairpeople for volunteering. We are looking forward to another great year.

Thanks to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for coming to tonight's meeting.

We had a very smooth opening for our 417 students. The first day student line ups were safer in the back parking lot.

Regarding staffing, our Kindergarten teacher, Jenny Wache, will be shared with Randall Carter. Gail Vroegindewy is our new Reading Specialist. School Psychologist, Jenny An, is now on the tenure track. Amy Walden and Renee Laterza are our new playground aides. The new office assistant is Dawn DePaola.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Ice Cream Social was once again a great success. Thanks to the PTO and Applegate Farms.

Thanks to our Site Based Committee. The members are Michele DePalma, Noreen Carlascio, Scott McLean, Pam Burns, Renee Heine, Rose Guselli and Kim Venezia.

Thanks to the PTO for the Teacher Breakfast on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Back to School Night went very well. The teachers were well prepared and did a wonderful job. Attendance was very high, at 90%.

Mr. Maayan met with each class to explain the purpose of our "code red" and "code green" safety drills. Code green is an evacuation drill where the students walk to Wayne Valley. Code red is a lock down drill.

Our district has a new "Wellness Policy" which prohibits distributing snacks which have sugar as the main ingredient. Snacks which may be provided at class parties will be discussed at the class parent meeting. Children who bring in birthday treats for the class must follow these established guidelines. Healthy birthday treats may also be ordered from Sodexo. Instead of distributing ice pops for birthday lunches, we will give the children gift certificates for the school store.

Last year we received \$5,000 in our school budget for grounds beautification. We removed the rocks by the front bushes and replaced them with mulch. We also planted new bushes. We have \$1700 remaining to be spent.

School Spirit Day will continue to be the first Friday of each month. Please have your child dress in school colors.

Student Council elections are underway.

We need parents to sign in at assemblies. For safety reasons, we wish to keep track of who is in our building.

The emergency notification system will be utilized again this year.

The school website is a wonderful resource. Thanks to Mrs. Budnick for all of her hard work.

Regarding standardized testing, we have a committee in place which is charged with analyzing scores and devising methods for improving our results. Last year we were able to run a program for any 5<sup>th</sup> graders who were at or around the proficient or advanced proficient levels. The program was held once a week for the six weeks prior to testing, and was taught by Mrs. Caplan. This year we will expand this program to our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Our teachers are attending test preparation workshops. Study Island is another resource for our students to utilize. The dates for standardized testing are listed on our website.

We are looking into working with Sodexo in order to have a Thanksgiving Feast for our students.

During School Violence Prevention Week we will host assemblies aimed at preventing bullying. The teachers appreciate the wonderful Cultural Enrichment assemblies that the PTO provides.

Regarding traffic, there are still some people parking in the fire zone. Unfortunately we only see improvement when the police write tickets. We still hope to obtain the “right turn only” sign for leaving the school onto Clifford Drive. Sue Hohmann commented that cars should not block the crosswalk when making a left turn into the school in the morning.

### **TEACHERS’ REPORT** Given by Mrs. Caplan.

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **ART APPRECIATION** – Given by Erin Marzella.

The Art Appreciation Committee (Erin Marzella, Deb Valente, and Kathy Drago) are trying to simplify the program so that it will be simpler for future chairpeople to run. Last year we chose four projects which the entire school worked on. This year we will set up a different project for each grade level. Future chairpeople will simply need to re-order the supplies.

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

#### **BIRTHDAY LUNCH** – \$.25 School Store coupons will be given out in lieu of ice pops.

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

**BOOK FAIR** – No report.

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE:** - Given by Dina Lucariello.

We have back to school decorations up for September, and will put Fall themes up in October. In December, we will represent all of the winter holidays.

**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 receive a check in December for any box tops submitted from April through October. Those received from October through February are paid in April. We already have \$740 coming into this year.

**CLASS PARENT COORDINATION** – Given by Jeanine Hassert.

The selection process is underway.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** - No report.

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

Karen Katz and Kate completed the Cultural Enrichment calendar, which is available on the school website. Thank you to Mrs. Maggio-Huber for organizing the author visit. We have received an \$1100 “Clean Communities” grant.

**EARTH DAY** - No report.

**FALL FUNDRAISER (INNISBROOK)** - Given by Patti Babich.

The Innisbrook fundraiser runs our school budget. Although this is a poor economy, we need everyone’s help to make this sale a success. We have many incentives and contests for the children, but we really need the parents support to meet our \$15,000 budget.

**FALL FUNDRAISER (ENTERTAINMENT COUPON BOOK)** – Given by Dawn Werr.

The kickoff will be October 6<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$25 per book. We will provide a free book to the teachers if all of the unsold books from their class have been returned.

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

**FIFTH GRADE DAY** - No report.

**FIELD DAY** – No report.

**FIFTH GRADE ACTIVITIES** - No report.

**FOOD SERVICE ADVISORY** – Given by Jeanine Hassert.

Parents of children who pay in advance can go online and get their child's remaining balance. For a nominal fee you can replenish balances with a credit card.

**HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE** - No report.

**HOSPITALITY** - No report.

**MEMBERSHIP** – No report.

**MEDIA CENTER** – Given by John Chiaramonte.

We have many volunteers, and the schedule is almost completed. We will be training new volunteers this Friday.

**MEDIA CENTER BOOK DONATION PROGRAM** – 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 Nancy Horbatuk.

School pictures will be taken on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Makeup day will be on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Group and club pictures will be taken on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK** - No report.

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS** – No report.

**WAYS & MEANS** – No report.

**WEB PHOTO COORDINATOR** – Given by Joe Butz.

Contact Joe to make appointments for web photos.

**WEBMASTER** – No report.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The following is the status of the expenditures which were voted on at our May meeting:

- The \$400 which was allocated for the map was never spent. These plans have not materialized, and the money will need to be re-allocated.
- Based upon the request of our 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, we had allocated \$1100 for a document camera. This would display 3-D objects that you hold in your hand. We need the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers' assistance in making this purchase. We will work with Mrs. Biondo.
- We allocated up to \$1500 for the school store, and it is on order.
- We allocated up to \$6,000 for the Jeopardy games requested by Mrs. Polizzotto. These will be for grades 3,4 and 5. They are ready to be ordered.
- We have approved the \$850 for Razkids.com, which is a program for our Reading Specialist to utilize in helping with literacy.
- The DVD brackets which were approved are on backorder.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Lori Greene mentioned that we have approximately \$7,000 from last year which still needs to be allocated.

The art appreciation committee requested a cabinet for art supplies.

We would like to make a donation to the Rude family, a Packanack family who suffered the loss of their home to a fire.

**Erin Marzella made a motion to donate \$500 to the Rude family. The motion was seconded by Joe Butz. Discussion ensued regarding the most useful type of donation in order to help the family. A vote was taken, and all were in favor. Motion passed.**

Madalena D'Amico mentioned a Fallon family who lost their husband and father last June. Because this tragedy occurred during the summer, the Fallon community did not respond at that time. A discussion ensued regarding the best way to help this Family. Madalena will speak to them regarding how we can best help.

Chrissy Brown knows of a company that would like to donate a mural to our school. Please bring any ideas you may have to our next meeting.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:** None

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Colleen Cardinale, seconded by Jeanine Hassert. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.**

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

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

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**Beverly Pindulic, Co-Recording Secretary**