

# **JAMES FALLON PTO MINUTES OF November 13, 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 October 2007 PTO Minutes and the budget with activity through November 13, 2007.

In attendance were: PTO Members: Noreen Carlascio, Michele DePalma, Nancy Horbatuk, Jeanine Hassert, Beverly Pindulic, Colleen Cardinale, Lori Greene, Linda De Gennaro, Pam Burns Gina Okun, Maddalena D'Amico, Tina Pontone, Andrea Carr, Denise Pike, Patti Babich, Lisa Rosenkrantz, Rachel Kristiansen, Susan Hohmann, Stacey Hartley, Joseph Butz Teachers: Renee Heine, Anna Montgomery, Peggie Biondo Principal: Ethan Maayan

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

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

Noreen Carlascio asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**A motion was made to accept the October 2007 minutes by Joe Butz, seconded by Pam Burns. 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 November 13, 2007 was provided for review. Lori also informed everyone about a revision in procedure regarding the reimbursement of sales tax. The Sales Tax Exemption form may only be utilized when using a PTO check. The PTO will reimburse small amounts of sales tax. For larger purchases Lori will accompany you with a PTO check.

**A motion was made to accept the Budget by Patti Babich, seconded by Andrea Carr. 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.

Michele and Noreen attended a meeting with our Food Services provider, Sodexo. The company is attempting to meet requests for more choices. However, they note that the children are not currently taking all the choices that are provided. Sodexo is running a pilot program at Pines Lake school. There is a contest to encourage children to make healthy food choices. The class that brings in the most fruit will win a fruit platter. This is an experimental process.

The PTO supplied refreshments for the Everyday Math presentation, as well as volunteers and water for the Diabetes Walk.

The directory has been distributed.

Patti Babich will be our Student Council liaison.

If anyone knows the individual who won the Devils tickets at the Tricky Tray, please contact the Tricky Tray chairpeople.

We would like to thank the following committees:

- Thanks to the Beautification committee and Mr. Martello for the wonderful Belgian block wall around our school sign.
- Thanks to Jari D'Alessandro for her continued efforts with Box Tops.
- Thanks to Gillian Velardi for her work on birthday lunches.
- Thanks to Julie Boylan for her Community Outreach coat drive.
- Thanks to Kate D'Apolito for the informative St. Barnabas Burn Unit presentation.
- Thanks to the class parents for the wonderful Halloween parties.
- Thanks to Linda Milone for the KidStuff sale.
- Thanks to the Tricky Tray committee: Erin Corsiglia, Tina Pontone and Linda DeGennaro for the tremendous work that they put in. Our tricky tray exceeded all expectations.
- The Holiday Boutique committee, Jen MacMullen, Erin Corsiglia and Tracy DeLuccia, are preparing for the upcoming holiday sale.
- Thanks to John Chiaramonte and Sally Schwartz for their continuous efforts in the Media Center.
- Thanks to Noreen Carlascio for preparing the school directory.

- Thanks to Janice Loughheed and Nancy Leotsakas for updating the school sign.
- Thanks to Solange Mastroberti and Denise Pike for keeping the school store up and running.
- Thanks to the School Spirit Committee of Chrissy Brown, Judy McLean and Ellen Puckowitz for a great DJ night.
- Thanks to Karen Katz and Amy Kirkman, our Sunshine Committee, for sending cards and gifts to our Fallon community.
- Thanks to our volunteer coordinators, Laurie Leonard, Carolann Martello and Kim Brown for coordinating volunteers for all of our PTO activities.
- Thanks to Karen Peters for coordinating our Media Fund.

Our PTO Holiday Party will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Invitations will be sent out shortly.

Upcoming Events: Tomorrow (11/14) is picture retake day, The Fallon Flier deadline is 11/21, the presentation of Season of Miracles will be 11/26, and the Holiday Boutique will be 11/28, 29 and 30.

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

Thank you to the fourth grade teachers for attending tonight's meeting.

Thank you to everyone involved in the Tricky Tray. It exceeded everyone's expectations.

We are proud to announce that Fallon's diabetes walk raised over \$4,000 for the American Diabetes Foundation. We would like to thank the Fallon families for being so generous. Special thanks to Mrs. Scian, Mrs. Caplan and our student team for their time and efforts in making this event a huge success. The students used their own time to learn about diabetes and teach classes on the subject. Thanks also to our PTO volunteers at this event.

Pending Board approval, Mrs. Diana Gracia will be replacing Mrs. Heine on 11/26. We are very pleased to have Mrs. Gracia, who last year had a very successful stay as Mrs. Montgomery's maternity replacement.

Thanks to Patti Babich for helping as Student Council coordinator. The Student Council will continue their holiday season tradition of helping children by sponsoring a fundraiser called "Pennies for Patients" to benefit children with leukemia. The fundraiser will begin on November 26<sup>th</sup> and run for three weeks.

We had a code red drill and a bus evacuation drill on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and a code green drill on October 29<sup>th</sup>. These drills were very successful.

Regarding parking, Mrs. Hohmann is waiting for a “no left turn” sign to be added at the school entrance. The stop sign has been installed. In addition, at pickup when the lot is full, a “Do Not Enter” sign will be posted.

Thank you to Fire Chief Lampariello from Fire Company 4 for bringing the fire trucks to our school on October 19<sup>th</sup> and teaching our Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students about fire prevention.

Connected Classroom is up and running at Randall Carter. We will arrange to have some teachers and PTO members visit and view the product to determine if it could be a worthwhile purchase for us.

The parent notification system was tested at Randall Carter today. There will be a district wide test message sent on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Eventually we will be able to send a message relating to our school only, if necessary.

Thank you to Mr. Martello for the wall at the school entrance.

The following events took place during violence prevention/Red ribbon week:

- Kindergarten students participated in an activity called “*Hands are not for hitting... Instead I can...*” Their pictures were displayed in the hallways.
- Grades one through five used the phrase “Star Light, Star Bright...this is what I can do INSTEAD of fight...” All students were given a star. Inside the star the students drew a picture of something they could do instead of fighting. The stars are currently being displayed on bulletin boards.
- Mr. Maayan met with every class to present anti-bullying lessons. The lessons consisted of a book reading, bullying discussion and role playing.
- Each classroom teacher incorporated anti bullying or anti-violence themes into their lessons.
- Each parent received a “Facts on Bullying” and “Cyber Bullying” information packet.

Multi-Cultural day was on November 2nd. Thank you to the many parents for all of the outstanding presentations.

Our 36 members of the Safety Patrol were sworn in by Officer Chris Corsiglia during a ceremony on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Mr. Maio and Mrs. Loureiro for overseeing this important school function.

Parents are invited to attend the Chuck Sastre memorial concert at William Paterson’s Shea auditorium this Thursday at 7:00. Mr. Sastre was a music teacher from Wayne who passed away waiting for a lung transplant.

Next week Monday through Wednesday dismissal will be at 1:15.

The fourth grade program was wonderful.

**TEACHERS’ REPORT** Given by Mrs. Heine.

The teachers wished to thank the PTO for the St. Barnabas program as well as the Tricky Tray and massages. Multi-cultural day was very successful. Everyone loved DJ night. Thanks to the class mothers for the Halloween parties. Thanks to the PTO for purchasing the books and red ribbon items. The teachers admire the new brick wall at the entrance to the school.

Mrs. Scian wished to thank the volunteers for their help with the Diabetes walk. The walk raised over \$4,000 and we earned gym equipment and health office supplies. Students also learned lessons in helping others and making healthy food choices.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

The first project is in progress and running smoothly. Our website is working.

**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** – Given by Colleen Cardinale.

Jari D'Alessandro has a check from eCycle Group for the ink jets for \$113.25. As of October 31<sup>st</sup> she has collected box tops totaling \$387.90. Added to the existing account, we should receive a check for \$528.90.

**CLASS PARENT COORDINATION** – No report.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** - No report.

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT** - No report.

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

We are trying to determine who won the Devils tickets to inform them of an upgrade in seating. The game is next week.

**FALL FUNDRAISER (KIDSTUFF)** – Given by Colleen Cardinale.

We have sold approximately 175 books. We are still trying to collect 40 more books. The profit to date is \$2187.50.

**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 Noreen Carlascio

Kiki Graham and Don Pavlak have been taking photos and submitting them to local papers. Not every picture they send gets in. Lisa Rosenkrantz offered to help with this process.

**READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM** – No report.

**SCHOOL DIRECTORY** – Given by Noreen Carlascio.

There was only one error that we are aware of. The last digit in the phone number of one student in Mrs. Venezia's class was printed incorrectly. A correction notice was sent to everyone in this class, and printed in the Fallon Flier.

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

Retake day is tomorrow 11/14.

**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.

Joe took photos before Halloween. There were problems with the website posting. There were also problems with the teacher pages. Joe was told he couldn't post the pictures. Mr. Maayan will work with Mrs. Budnik on the new district wide webpage.

Joe shared information at our last meeting relating to earning money for our school simply by using a search engine sponsored by Scholastic and Microsoft. Joe used this search engine himself for two months and earned \$20.54 for our school. He will send a letter home to each family with specific details.

**WEBMASTER** – No report.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

At our last meeting we discussed the possibility of purchasing tents to provide shade on the playground. Amy Kirkman hasn't looked into this yet.

Tina Pontone suggested the possibility of adding baskets under the 5<sup>th</sup> grade desks to provide more room to store books and supplies. The fifth grade teachers loved the idea. We will look into this further.

Lisa Rosenkrantz asked about the status of the collection bins for the main lobby. At our last meeting we allotted up to \$500 for the purchase of a countertop bin system.

Andrea Carr inquired as to how much money we had left to allocate from last year. Lori Greene responded that there is approximately \$7,400 remaining. Andrea suggested purchasing a mat with the James Fallon logo for the entryway. Noreen will give Andrea a catalog, so that we would have more information on costs for our next meeting.

Nancy Horbatuk researched the "Peaceful Playgrounds" website. They sell stencils with educational items such as maps of the US, or maps of NJ, which could be painted onto the blacktop. We would need volunteers to do the painting. Mr. Maayan also commented that there would be upkeep involved when the paint faded. The blacktop is used for parking for our parents as well as aftercare and weekend sporting activities.

The Tricky Tray made approximately \$28,000. Of this amount, \$16,000 funds our operating budget. Innisbrook typically earned us approximately \$14,000. Andrea Carr questioned whether some of the excess proceeds could be put toward a deposit for next year. We would need to vote on whether to have another Tricky Tray next year.

Denise Pike researched the cost of hand sanitizers for the Cafeteria. Several kinds could be purchased for approximately \$500. These would come with mats to catch drips.

Mobile units cost approximately \$239. This would contain four stations so that four children at a time could use the unit. Refills cost \$50. The unit is 27 lbs when it is not full. Nancy will give Mr. Maayan the packet, and he will talk with Mrs. Scian and consider this.

Sue Hohmann brought up the idea of putting a fence along the grass to prevent students from running into the yard on Clifford Drive near the school sign. The homeowner has complained about this issue. Mr. Maayan will bring this up at the Site Based meeting.

Mrs. Heine received a request from Mrs. Scian for three videos for Health Class lessons. The cost would be approximately \$225. Mr. Maayan said he could provide this from the School's budget.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

In recent years the PTO has conducted a Community Outreach Thanksgiving collection. It was suggested that due to our excess funds, in lieu of collecting from parents the PTO could donate \$50 Shop Rite gift cards for each family.

**Lisa Rosenkrantz made a motion to dedicate up to \$400 for the purchase of Shop Rite gift cards for families in need. Sue Hohmann seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.**

### **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

A discussion ensued regarding the morning drop off traffic problem. Lori Greene questioned whether PTO parent volunteers could assist in ensuring that everyone pulls up to the designated area and follows appropriate procedure. Mr. Maayan said that the police have told him that this is not advisable.

The scheduled date for the holiday party coincides with the last night of Chanukah. We will look into switching the date.

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Lisa Rosenkrantz, seconded by Tina Pontone. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**

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

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

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**Beverly Pindulic, Recording Secretary**