

JAMES FALLON PTO MINUTES OF February 10, 2009 MEETING

PTO Co-President Noreen Carlascio called the regular meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. The meeting was held in the Media Center. Pledge of Allegiance was cited.

The attendance sheet was circulated together with the December 2008 PTO Minutes and the proposed budget with activity through February 10, 2009.

In attendance were: PTO Members: Noreen Carlascio, Jeanine Hassert, Beverly Pindulic, Lori Greene, Sue Hohmann, Joseph Butz, Maddalena D'Amico, Karen Katz, Karen Alexander, Gina Okun, Dina Lucariello, Tania Joyner, Kiki Graham Principal: Ethan Maayan Teachers: Kim Venezia, Rose Guselli, Kathy Gonzalez, Linda Bursik

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Beverly asked everyone to please sign in and review the December PTO minutes.

Noreen Carlascio asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

A motion was made to accept the December 2008 minutes by Tanya Joyner, second by Karen Katz. No discussion on the floor, a vote was taken, all were in favor, motion passed.

TREASURERS' REPORT: - Given by Lori Greene.

Lori noted that a copy of the proposed budget with activity through February 10, 2009 was provided for review. She pointed out that the profit for the holiday boutique may seem high because the invoice has not been paid yet.

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

Co-PRESIDENTS' REPORT – Given by Noreen Carlascio.

The following are events that recently took place:

- We had our Holiday Boutique December 10 – 12 with an added night for extra shopping. Thank you to Lisa George, Marina Borukhovich and Jennifer Schneider.

- Our Sunshine Chairperson, Gena Ugliarolo, provided holiday gifts to our James Fallon Staff.
- We had our PTO Holiday Party on January 6th. Thanks to all who attended. Thank you to our Corresponding Secretary, Coleen Cardinale, for organizing the evening. Special thanks to Pam Burns for opening up her home and giving us a beautiful and comfortable place to relax together. Also, thank you to Erin Corsiglia for helping with organizing the delicious catered food.
- On January 7th the school enjoyed an assembly entitled Arithmeticles, thanks to the efforts of our Cultural Enrichment chair people Kate D'Apolito and Karen Katz.
- Our School Spirit Committee, Karen Alexander, Erin Corsiglia and Pam Burns did a great job providing the school with a fun filled night of BINGO on January 9th at the PAL.
- Club and Group Photo's were taken on January 13th. Also, every student was given a new class photo with student names listed. Thank you School Photos chairperson Nancy Horbatuk for coordinating this.
- DARE Graduation was held on January 16th. Our 5th Grade Activities Chairpeople, Laurie Leonard and Daniela Ferrara, coordinated refreshments as well as providing the officer with a gift. Thanks for a great job.
- The Fallon Flier was distributed. As always, thanks go out to Donna Daly for doing such a great job.
- On January 30th, Cultural Enrichment coordinated the Officer Phil assembly.
- Our Volunteer coordinators, Maddalena D'Amico and Rosann Falso, were busy arranging for volunteers to help with the Kindergarten Registration, which will be wrapping up this Thursday. Thanks for making all the calls.
- The Beautification committee was busy decorating our school for the winter holidays and Valentines Day. Thank you Dina Lucariello and Hasina Pathan.
- The Community Outreach Chairperson Julie Boylan was very busy over the last few months with coordinating the Coat Drive, Holiday Gifts for the Needy, Food Drive and most recently Valentine for Veterans. Thank you Julie for doing such a great job for our community.
- Jari D'Alessandro and Maryann Tolli are continuing the organizing of our Box Tops collections Program. Thanks for keeping up with this.

Upcoming events:

- On February 26th Cultural Enrichment has coordinated a Fossil Dig assembly.
- Our annual Book Fair will be March 3-5 with an evening sales night on the 4th.
- Our next PTO Meeting will be Tuesday, March 10th.

We will be forming the Nominating Committee soon and if anyone is interested please come see us. The nominating committee is comprised of 3 committee chair people and 2 non-committee people.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: - Given by Mr. Maayan

Danielle Bressner, one of our first grade teachers, will be on maternity leave in April and will return in June. Playground Supervisor, Amy Walden, has resigned and will be replaced by Sharron Zozzaro, pending board approval.

Fire drills have been running very smoothly. We will have our second code red next week. We have requested a light for the stairs in the back of the school.

We have done our best to keep everyone informed of the occurrences of head lice in our school. We have had 16 cases in all, and none in the last few weeks.

The Fallon staff takes NJ ASK test preparation very seriously. We hold workshops and staff meetings to improve student performance. Students have Study Island available to them. In addition, we will hold extra classes for selected students twice a week leading up to the testing. Classes will be run by Mrs. Polizotto and Mrs. Thomas. Testing will be held the week of May 4th for our 3rd and 4th graders, and the week of May 11th for our 5th graders. NJ PASS testing for our 1st and 2nd graders will be held the week of March 23rd.

We have once again sent out a letter reminding parents of our traffic procedures. We will also increase the police presence at our school, and Mr. Maayan will be out with the crossing guard as much as possible.

The Parent Notification System has been successful for emergencies, school closings and other critical information.

Dr. Sico is asking for each school to participate in the Memorial Day parade.

After 3 days of kindergarten registration, we have 40 students registered.

This Thursday is the last day of Family Science. Thanks to Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Houlihan for running this fun and informative program.

Please check out our website. Thank you to Mrs. Budnick for all of her hard work.

Recent Events

All holiday activities went very well. The Holiday Boutique ran very smoothly. Our 3rd grade program was terrific. We also enjoyed the band concert, class parties and Holiday Sing-a-long.

January activities included Multi-Cultural Day, DARE graduation, peer mediators, Family Science, a Chinese New Year celebration, Arithmetics assembly and the Officer Phil assembly.

Upcoming Events

This month we will present our 2nd grade program. School will be closed three days for Presidents' Day. We will also be holding a poetry contest, Jump Rope for Heart, and a Fossil Dig cultural assembly.

Thank you to the 2nd grade teachers for coming to tonight's meeting.

TEACHERS' REPORT Given by Mrs. Bursik.

The teachers wanted to thank the PTO for sponsoring the food drive, which instills a sense of kindness and community in our children. The Holiday Boutique was a great opportunity for our students to learn the value of money and to think of others.

The teachers had a wonderful time at the PTO party. Thanks to Pam Burns for hosting this.

Mrs. Nicosia and Ms. Kehoe wanted to thank the PTO for the DVD brackets. Mrs. Montgomery's class thanks the PTO for the pizza party they received for selling the most Entertainment books. In addition, all of the teachers appreciated the free Entertainment Books.

The Art Appreciation program has been running beautifully.

Mrs. Maggio would like to decorate the library like an Airplane for Read Across America day. She wondered if the PTO would provide pretzel bags as a snack for this event.

The fourth grade is not interested in receiving the Jeopardy game which was previously discussed. They are asking the PTO if it would be possible to purchase an additional Smart Board instead. They currently have two, and one classroom is left out. Jeopardy could be played on the Smart Boards as well.

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 Pam Burns.

The Book Fair schedule will be distributed next week.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: - No report.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION & INK JETS – No report.

CLASS PARENT COORDINATION – No report.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - No report.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT - Given by Karen Katz.

Our committee hosted the Arithmeticles, which was a Math game show, and the Officer Phil assembly, which focused on safety. Upcoming events include a Fossil Dig and a Touch of Nature assembly.

EARTH DAY - No report.

FALL FUNDRAISER (INNISBROOK) - No report.

FALL FUNDRAISER (ENTERTAINMENT COUPON BOOK) – No report.

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.

Jeanine wanted to make everyone aware that the lunch calendar may be revised slightly the day after a snow day. They will often serve the meal which was supposed to be prepared for the snow day.

Parents can pay on line.

Wayne Valley will host a student culinary competition on March 4th from 5:30 to 7:30PM. Admission is \$7.

The middle and elementary schools will be getting waffle stations.

Keep in mind some additional services provided by Sodexo. They will run catered events such as barbecues. They will also provide healthy birthday snacks for a reasonable cost.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE - No report.

HOSPITALITY - No report.

MEMBERSHIP – No report.

MEDIA CENTER – No report.

MEDIA CENTER BOOK DONATION PROGRAM – Given by Gina Okun.

There are now new books available for donation. They will be listed in the Fallon Flyer and also on our website.

NEWSLETTER – No report.

PLANT SALE – No report.

PUBLICITY – Given by Kiki Graham.

Kiki discussed the possibility of 5th graders videoing the programs for submission to Channel 77.

READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM – No report.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY – No report.

SCHOOL PHOTO – No report.

SCHOOL SIGN COORDINATOR – No report.

SCHOOL SPIRIT – Given by Karen Alexander.

We will host Skate Night at the Ice Vault on Friday March 21st from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The cost will be \$8 per skater plus the cost of rentals.

We will also host a bowling night in April. This will be held on Friday, April 17th.

We are considering a Jackals night, an indoor soccer game with the Ironmen, and possibly an end of the year outdoor carnival.

SCHOOL STORE – Given by Tania Joyner.

Tania pointed out that some students bring large bills to the school store. She recommends that students not bring checks or bills over \$5.

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 – No report.

WEBMASTER – No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Maayan obtained approval for the signs which the school crossing guard requested that were discussed at our last meeting. The signs will cost \$2200.

A motion was made by Jeanine Hassert to allocate \$2200 for the purchase of the signs which were requested. The motion was seconded by Beverly Pindulic. There was no discussion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

The PTO previously approved \$6000 for the purchase of Jeopardy games for the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. The 4th grade has indicated that they would rather have another Smart Board. The cost would be approximately \$4,000. The PTO needs to find out what the 3rd and 5th grades want before proceeding with this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Maggio is hosting a poetry contest where students memorize poetry of their choosing, and perform on stage. She is requesting that the PTO provide prizes of Barnes & Noble gift cards costing a total of \$100.

A motion was made by Gina Okun to allocate \$100 for the purchase of the Barnes and Noble gift cards. The motion was seconded by Linda Bursik. A discussion ensued regarding whether it was appropriate to award prizes to select students. A vote was taken and the motion did not pass.

Mrs. Maggio has also requested that the PTO provide pretzels for Read Across America day.

A motion was made by Lori Greene to allocate up to \$120 for the purchase of pretzels for Read Across America day. The motion was seconded by Linda Bursik. There was no discussion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, and the motion passed.

OPEN DISCUSSION: None

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jeanine Hassert, seconded by Joe Butz. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Beverly Pindulic, Co-Recording Secretary.

Approved: _____

Beverly Pindulic, Co-Recording Secretary