

JAMES FALLON PTO MINUTES OF December 9, 2008 MEETING

PTO Co-President Noreen Carlascio called the regular meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. The meeting was held in the Cafeteria. The Pledge of Allegiance was not cited due to no flag in the Cafeteria.

The attendance sheet was circulated together with the October 2008 PTO Minutes and the proposed budget with activity through December 9, 2008.

In attendance were: PTO Members: Noreen Carlascio, Michele DePalma, Jeanine Hassert, Lori Greene, Joe Ugliarolo, Colleen Cardinale, Sue Hohmann, Kate D'Apolito, Joseph Butz, Dina Lucariello, Paula Kline, Dawn Werr, Scott Okun, Gina Okun, Denise Pike, Kelly Menzel, Nancy Horbatuk, Kiki Graham Principal: Ethan Maayan Teachers: Anna Montgomery, Peggie Biondo, Renee Heine, Laura Schreiber (Student Teacher)

RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No report. Susan 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 2008 minutes by Jeanine Hassert, was second by Scott Okun. No discussion on the floor, a vote was taken, all were in favor, motion passed.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No report. Colleen asked everyone to please make sure they sign the attendance sheet. She also asked everyone to Save the Date for the Holiday Party of Tuesday, January 6th.

TREASURERS' REPORT: - Given by Lori Greene.

Lori noted that a copy of the proposed budget with activity through December 9, 2008 was provided for review.

A motion was made to accept the Budget by Nancy Horbatuk, seconded by Gina Okun. 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 Carlascio spoke first. She stated that last month's PTO meeting was cancelled due to the fact that there was very little time spent at school between the October meeting and the scheduled November meeting.

The following are events that recently took place:

- There was an e-mail vote for Community Outreach regarding the distribution of Shop Rite Gift Cards for Thanksgiving. Julie Boylan had requested \$400 for the 12 Shop Rite Gift Cards (\$25 each) and \$100 worth of baked goods. There was 57 responses out of 65. The motion passed on Tuesday, November 18th.
- The School Spirit Committee held the Fall Frenzy on Friday, October 24th. All attendees had a great time.
- Cultural Enrichment held the Morris Brothers Bully Busters assembly on Monday, October 27th. Kids seemed to enjoy that.
- School pictures were distributed. Nancy Horbatuk contacted Davis Studios to see if we could get the childrens' names on the bottom of the class pictures. Nancy will talk more about that later. Picture retakes were held on November 27th.
- Entertainment Coupon books have been distributed.
- School Spirit Wear has been distributed.
- Cultural Enrichment also provided the school with a visit from author **Trinka Haka?** today. The PTO provided the Media Center with books from this author for each grade level.
- Thanks to the 4th Grade teachers for attending this meeting.

Upcoming events:

- The Holiday Boutique will be taking place on December 10th, 11th, and 12th.
- The Fallon Flier should be out by the end of the week or by Monday.
- PTO Council reminds everyone to please come and shop at the PTO Council's Browse and Shop store by the Preakness Library. Any profits made at the Browse and Shop provides scholarships for the graduating seniors from Wayne Hills and Wayne Valley. You can bring things there that are in good condition – toys, clothes, video games, etc.
- We are now forming a nominating committee for next year's committees – 3 Committee people and 2 non-committee people. They are in charge of getting a new executive board in place.
- Pam Burns is hosting the Holiday Party on January 6th. Invitations will be going out soon.
- Thanks go to the School Spirit Committee for the Fall Frenzy.
- Thanks go to the Publicity Committee (Kiki Graham) for all the publicity in the Wayne Today.

- Thanks go to the Hospitality Committee for the hospitality provided to the Everyday Math Workshop and a number of other things.
- Thanks go to the Volunteer Coordinators for getting volunteers for the Diabetes Walk and the upcoming Holiday Boutique.
- Thanks go the Cultural Enrichment for all the assemblies that are taking place
- Thanks to Mr. Dominic for all his hard work in setting up the tables, preparing the coffee, etc.
- The next PTO Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, January 6th.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: - Given by Mr. Maayan

Thank you to the PTO for my tie for my birthday. It was nice getting a birthday gift.

Regarding safety, we had our first Code Red (lockdown situation) on October 22nd and we had our first Code Green (evacuation) on October 20th. Both drills went very well. The Annual Bus Evacuation Drill was held on October 28th. Every class goes out and practices getting out of the back of the bus in case while on a field trip they need to evacuate the bus. We are continuing, as always, to have two (2) fire drills per month. There are two (2) more Code Reds planned.

Regarding head lice, there was an Emergency Notification sent out today. Head lice has been found in the school but is hopefully now under control. The protocol is to notify parents on a class-by-class basis when a child is found to have head lice. Mr. Maayan has been talking the head nurse, Suzanne Kuransky, this week regarding the situation. The mass message was sent to clarify the situation. The school is taking precautions by have 2 nurses check every child's head for lice. If lice or nits are found, the child is sent home. Those parents have a lot of work to do at home to get rid of the lice. The child must be re-examined by the nurse upon returning to school. They will be checked for the next two (2) weeks. Some precautions that the school is taking are as follows: putting all coats, hats, scarves in the children's backpacks and custodians are vacuuming all rugs, couches, etc. Mr. Maayan would like to have the nurses check all students' heads in two (2) weeks. Mr. Maayan has talked to Transportation to see how the buses are handling the lice situation. Every school is affected by lice this year. It seems that the Emergency Notification was well accepted.

The following fundraisers were held recently. There was a Diabetes Walk-a-thon held and \$2,900 was raised. The Principals, a band made up of 5th graders Michael Lanza, _____, and _____, held a concert at school in the Gym. They made \$400 and are buying phone cards to send to the Troops.

There was an Everyday Math workshop held on December 3rd. Parents are basically happy with this program. Parents that do not like this program feel that it lacks the basic skills so now we have the Basic Skills Assessment throughout the year. The children take the timed tests and the teachers give them practice on it and the teachers give me the results every 4 weeks. We are compiling it all and seeing how they are doing. Mrs. Biondo reminds us that there are 2 practices and 1 test per week. The third marking period is double time – that is the directions we were given. The 4th grade is given 70 seconds to do 20 problems and the 3rd and 4th marking period they have 35 seconds.

Jeanine Hassert interjected that, as a parent, she hears a lot of negatives about the Everyday Math Program. She finds it very embarrassing to see only about 12 parents at

the workshop that these 4 teachers have put together. She encourages parents to please attend the workshops because they are extremely helpful.

The Wellness Policy has gotten better for people celebrating birthdays. People are still bringing in items that are not acceptable but it is less and less people doing that. Holiday time is a little more lenient.

Peer Mediation people have been selected. There are nine (9) 4th graders, and nine (9) 5th graders selected. Students are selected by a 3-tier basis. Children fill out a survey of a list of students who are kind to everyone. Children also have a self-nomination and they also need a teacher recommendation. Mrs. Caplan and Mrs. Biondo had two days worth of training with students. They practiced conflict resolution skills. There will be an assembly in January for grades 3rd to 5th.

Dawn Werr brought up an issue where the same children are always being picked for all these programs (Peer Mediation, Student Council, Safety Patrol) and other children are getting their feelings hurt. She feels that children should be limited to one or two different committees so that the other children get a chance to do at least one thing. Currently, children can be a student council representative for 2 out of 3 years. Mr. Maayan is considering to limiting it to 1 year so that other children get a chance. He is trying to make it as little as possible a popularity contest. Safety Patrol is for 5th graders only. They have to take a safety quiz, student council votes on people as well as Peer Mediation (4th and 5th graders only). They are eligible for 2 out of 3 years to participate.

DARE is for the 5th graders. They had their last lesson today. Officers Al Strumolo (Drug Awareness), Officer Corsiglia (Drinking) and Officer McNiff (Internet Safety) did a great job today with the student. They DARE graduation date is to be determined.

Thanks to all the 4th grade teachers and Ms. Laura Schreiber (student teacher) for coming tonight.

Recent Events

October 17th – Author Nancy Stark visited.

October 17th was the 4th Grade Trip to the Meadowlands. They liked the guided tour this year.

October 23rd – 4th Grade Program “Falling into 4th Grade”

October 24th - Fall Frenzy was a lot of fun.

October 27th - Morris Brothers assembly was nice.

Halloween Parade – We did 2 times around and it didn’t work out well. Next year we might try having the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders come out first with K through 2nd to follow and they each will go around 2 times each.

Upcoming Events

December 10th, 11th, 12th (W-F) – Holiday Boutique

December 12th – 3rd Grade Dental Program (9:30)

December 15th – 3rd Grade Program (Dress Rehearsal) (2:00)

December 16th – 3rd Grade Program for Parents (9:30)

December 16th – 5th Grade Windows Art (12:45)

December 17th – Band Concert for Students (9:30)

December 18th – Band Concert for Parents (9:30)

December 22nd – Class Parties
December 23rd – Sing-a-long
December 24 – January 2 – No School/Holiday Recess

Regarding the band concert, when the students are being introduced it should be on a first name basis only because of being viewed on TV. It is a safety precaution. Noreen Carlascio and Michele DePalma suggested that Mr. Paterno announce only the students' first names at the concert for the school and that be the one that is taped and shown on Channel 77. At the parent concert, the full names of the children can be announced. Mr. Maayan is considering this. Mr. Butz questioned whether we can find out a schedule of when it will be on Channel 77.

TEACHERS' REPORT Given by Mrs. Biondo, Mrs. Montgomery and Mrs. Heine

Mrs. Montgomery read a letter from Mrs. Scian (School Nurse) thanking the PTO for all they do. The teachers wished to thank Mrs. Maggio for the visit by Nancy Stark, the class parents for the Halloween class parties, the Box Top collection is going very well, the Morris Brothers Assembly was excellent, the Fall Frenzy, Art Moms, and KiKi Graham for taking pictures of the 4th grade field.

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: - Given by Dina Lucariello.

The school decorations are up for the all holidays and everything looks great.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION & INK JETS – No report.

CLASS PARENT COORDINATION – No report.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Given by Colleen Cardinale for Julie Boylan.

The Coat Drive was successful. The coats were given to Fallon families in need and the Eva's Kitchen. Gift Card collection box is in the main office. These gift cards are going to Fallon families in need and any surplus will go to Ryerson school families in need.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT - Given by Kate D'Apolito.

On January 7th – Arithmatials is scheduled to be here on January 30th. Officer Bill is expected to be here for K – 4.

EARTH DAY - No report.

FALL FUNDRAISER (INNISBROOK) - No report.

FALL FUNDRAISER (ENTERTAINMENT COUPON BOOK) – Given by Dawn Werr and Kelly Menzel.

The Entertainment Book sale went well. The committee made \$3,200 and out of the approximately 300 books sent out only 17 books are outstanding and there were 260 books sold. Mrs. Montgomery's class won the pizza party for the most books sold. The vendor is paying for the pizza party. Books to each teacher is free from the vendor also. The money that was made is double what was budgeted to be made.

FIFTH GRADE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE – No report.

FIFTH GRADE DAY - No report.

FIELD DAY – No report.

FIFTH GRADE ACTIVITIES - No report.

FOOD SERVICE ADVISORY – No report.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE - Given by Colleen Cardinale.

This year's Holiday Boutique will be on December 10th, 11th and 12th. There will be evening hours on Thursday (11th) from 3:00 to 6:00.

HOSPITALITY - No report.

MEMBERSHIP – No report.

MEDIA CENTER – No report.

MEDIA CENTER BOOK DONATION PROGRAM – No report.

NEWSLETTER – No report.

PLANT SALE – No report.

PUBLICITY – No report.

READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM – No report.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY – Given by Noreen Carlascio.

The school directory has been published on everything seems wonderful. If there are any corrections, they will be in the Fallon Flier.

SCHOOL PHOTOS – Given by Nancy Horbatuk.

Retake day went well. The class pictures have no names listed on them but Davis Studio will be sending out new class photos with the names printed on them. On January 13th, the group photos will be being taken.

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.

November pictures have been taken but not sent to the website yet. They will be on soon.

WEBMASTER – No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

- Lori Greene informed us that currently outstanding from last year's budget is still the overhead projector (\$1,100) but that it is not really needed anymore with having "Connected Classrooms". There was a motion to take \$1,100 off for the projector. It was motioned by Mrs. Biondo (1st) and Mrs. Montgomery (2nd). Motion passed.
- \$6,000 was allocated for the Jeopardy games requested by Mrs. Polizzotto in September's meeting. Mrs. Montgomery says the 4th grade would like to opt out of the Jeopardy and spend their \$2,000 portion on something else like an LCD screen or ConnectED.

- The donation for the Trani Family has not been sent yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Susan Hohmann, School Crossing Guard, brought up the parking lot and its many issues. She spent time on the internet searching for signs that would help the parking lot situation. She is asking for \$2,200 for different signs and posts for the parking lot (a one time purchase). Mr. Maayan said he was going to call Wayne Police Department (Officer Dring) and find out if we can put these signs out. Motion was made by Scott Okun and 2nd by Kelly Menzel. Motion was denied due to the fact that Mr. Maayan needs to contact the police department. The website for these signs is mysecuritysign.com and it is the 14” diameter cast iron sign stand for signs 12-18”.

OPEN DISCUSSION: None

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jeanine Hassert, seconded by Nancy Horbatuk. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Susan Hohmann, Co-Recording Secretary.

Approved: _____

Susan Hohmann, Co-Recording Secretary