

PTO Minutes
Tuesday, September 12, 2006

Attendees: Connie Russell, Melissa Skahan, Becky Sledjeski, Shari Elder, Catherine Robinson, Deb Regan, Renee Whiting, Bethany Smart, Karen Bubar, Donna Sasso, Andrea Goss, Amy St. Jean, Colleen Foley-Ingersoll, Rhonda Cassella, Scott Wentzell, Lisa Wentzell, Dorothy Holt, Tom Shepard, Karen Faiteu, Valerie Currier, Alii Ray, Maureen Morrone, Heather Giandrea, Pat Carroll, Gloria Nicholson, Kelly Craig, Tara Welton, Deirdre Clark, Tara Hill, Gwen Hall, Tyra Tarbox, Tom Gilley

- I. Meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Tom opened the meeting by introducing himself to the group. Everyone proceeded to introduce themselves and tell a little about what they do on the PTO. Parents introduced themselves and told about their children. It was the first time coming to a PTO meeting for many of the parents.
- II. Minutes of June and August meetings were approved.
- III. Mission Moments - Heather went over the handouts and volunteer opportunities with the attendees. She quoted from Ghandi – “be the change you want to see in the world.”.....
- IV. Approval of new members: All new members were approved!
 - A. Maureen Morrone co-secretary
 - B. Tara Hill - GMS chair
 - C. Tara Welton - Boxtops Coordinator
 - D. Kelley Craig - co-treasurer

V. **Old Business:**

Bike Safety (Gloria & Melissa) Nancy Grant had come to talk about the new path on Rte 9 . International Walk to School day is in October. The district will not allow this to event to take place due to cross roads and intersections being unstaffed and potentially dangerous. Nancy is applying for a grant to see what can be done to remedy this situation. A recommendation was made to have an afternoon or gym class to go over the rules and regulations of the bike path. Melissa is meeting with Nancy DOT to talk about the crosswalk and landing at NYMS. They also want to talk about pedestrian dummies in cross walks. Perhaps a May celebration could take place if these things are in place. A suggestion was made for parents to volunteer to be crossing guards. This is not feasible as per Melissa, there can be no volunteers in a supervisory role. (liability issue) Perhaps a parent group could look into getting crossing guards. The state does have funding available for such projects.

Signs and lighting at MIW - Tom spoke to Alii about purchasing 3 signs to direct traffic in the MIW parking lot. Tom is looking into improving the lighting through grants as there is currently no money in the budget for additional lighting. Once winter arrives, the walk way is dark at 4:00 p.m.

NYMS playground equipment - Last year \$1000 was approved to get climbing equipment for the children at NYMS. The playground equipment has arrived at Drowne Road School, however it still needs to be installed. Gloria volunteered to research playground equipment. A contractor is scheduled to install the concrete postings to anchor the equipment. This must occur before ground freezing.

VI. **Committee Reports and Review:**

- A. **Treasurers** Val stated that we are left at a little over \$14,000.00 The \$1,500 grant from Foundation 51 has not arrived yet. We also need to pay the balance of Rachael Simmons.

We also don't have the signage payment for NYMS. (All signage is here and waiting to find out exactly where the sign is going. The granite needs to be installed.)

- B. **Fundraising** Sally Foster is off and running through the 22nd of September. We are trying to encourage people to use the internet. They ship your order much quicker, they tally and ship direct, making it easier for PTO. Have to order \$60 dollars or more for free shipping. Tallying of orders will take place September 27th from 9:00-12:00pm at Prince Memorial Library. In order to on-line order, you must first register your child, and then items can be ordered by you or other persons. Anyone can log on and order items from your child, and your child's school will receive 50% of sales. We sold \$50,000.00 last year. It's our major fund-raiser. Delivery date is Friday November 3rd. We need volunteers to help unload truck. Pickup is Friday or Saturday. Younger children-parents pick up the orders. Bigger kids take order home with them. Between 9:00-12:00 orders should arrive and then after 1:00 orders can be sorted and picked up. Looking into the possibility of an alternative to the pizza fundraiser. Please submit ideas to Deb or Becky. We discussed a couple of alternate fund raising ideas such as Touch a Truck and Coupon Books. More ideas are welcome and will be considered!

Deb and Becky are looking for volunteers to help:

- tally orders on Wednesday, Sept. 27th from 9-noon at PML
- unload truck for GMS and NYMS orders on Friday, November 3rd
- sort/hand out MIW orders on Saturday, November 4th 9:00-noon at MIW

- C. **Events** Gwen presented to the parents and made a pitch for volunteers to help out on baking, cookies, brownies, muffins, etc. Shari looking for volunteers to deliver and set up platters at the different locations.

- Drop off/Drop In - Thursday, September 21 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. MIW conference room. Younger siblings are invited to come as well.
- PTO muffin morning with Dr. Bob Hasson - Thursday, October 12 @ 9:00 am in MIW conference room. It's a great opportunity to ask questions.
- Bus Driver, Food Service & Custodian Appreciation Day - Thursday, October 26th Need help for Wednesday, Sept. 25th to prep food and Thursday, Sept. 26th to deliver food.
- Family First Night - Wednesday, November 1st
- Happy Wheels Community Skate - Wednesday, November 15th 2:30-4:30.
- Community Holiday Festival - Saturday, December 9th. Need volunteers to help out on this day. Shari & Gwen looking to set up a committee for this event!
- Rachael Simmons, author of Odd Girl Out is coming on January 24th. Alii spoke about incorporating the Rachael Simmon's movie into the middle school program about bullying. Perhaps making the movie into a Parent University.
- Twice a year we sponsor a movie night, we would like to get away from movie night. Perhaps run a dance, or have someone come in and do some sort of child-oriented presentation. Suggestions are welcome.

- D. **Publicity** - Community Leader has launched a town-specific news Web site that allows anyone to upload photos, stories and events for free. Community Leader will be pulling information from this site to print in the paper. You can get to the pages for Cumberland and North Yarmouth by visiting <http://myMaineToday.com> and clicking on Cumberland or North Yarmouth.
- E. **Enrichment** - We have all grade level enrichment chairs except for one more multiage co-chair. Each grade level has a teacher leader in place. The grade level enrichment chairs/building chairs organize enrichment with the teachers for the grades based on curriculum.
- F. **Web site** - Remind everyone to keep Tyra informed so that she can update the website and keep it current. Don't forget to send her changes and any photos you may have.
- G. **Secretary** - No comments.
- H. **Co-chairs** - Went through new PTO Team packets. We have selected the concept of T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves More) as our theme this school year. If you are a board member and did not receive a PTO handbook, please let Heather know.

VII. **New Business:**

- A. Shirts for the PTO - Tom's brainstorm - worn at events so that we are easily recognizable.
- B. Box tops changes - Tom will follow up with Tara Welton
- C. Future meeting sites & presenters:
 - PTO Informational Meeting - Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 pm in GHS Library, special guest Superintendent Dr. Bob Hasson and the Future Schools co-chairs Emily Hawkinson and Patrick Williams.
 - PTO Business Meeting – Tuesday, November 14th at 7:00 pm in MIW Library, special guest David Galin.
 - PTO Informational Meeting - Tuesday, January 9th 7:00 MIW library, special guest Susie Robbins and Karen Bubar
 - PTO Informational Meeting – Tuesday, February 13th at 7:00 pm in NYMS Library, special guest Becky Foley
 - PTO Informational Meeting – Tuesday, March 13th at 7:00 pm in GMS Conference Room, special guest Kim Brandt
 - PTO Informational Meeting – Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00 pm in MIW Library, special guest Chris Mosca and Karl Covert
- D. Greely Renovations – The Greely High School renovation and improvement project is underway. Future Schools asked the PTO if they could make a 30-minute informative presentation on Tuesday, October 10th. Future Schools is a group of Cumberland and North Yarmouth residents who understand the importance of supporting our schools by preserving the past and planning for the future. The PTO is not taking a stance either way, but open for discussion. PTO is being informative, not persuasive.
- E. Parent Universities
- F. Greely Accreditation: Volunteers are needed, GHS principal Chris Mosca is in need of volunteers to participate in GHS accreditation, an afternoon of meetings/discussions. Chris would like to see the PTO help organize parent volunteers to participate in the accreditation process that is to take place on October 29th from 1-5pm. The afternoon will be broken into sessions with different groups, primarily focusing on the Greely mission statement and how the school system is adhering to that mission. The parents should be from middle school through high school, although Chris thought that parents of

younger students is also fine.

G. VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:00