

PTO Minutes  
Tuesday, November 14, 2006

- I. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and introductions were made.
- II. Minutes of October meeting were approved.

Mission Moment – (Tom) The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.

**Diogenes Laertius**

- III. Attendees: Luann Lawler, Wanda Ewings, Gloria Nicholson, Valerie Currier, Becky Sledjeski, Deb Regan, Tom Shepard, Melissa Skahan, David Galin, Maureen Morrone, Heather Giandrea, Pat Carroll, Kelly Craig, Gwen Hall, Emily Hawkinson, Tom Gilley.
- IV. David Galin, MSAD 51 Curriculum director introduced himself. The position of curriculum director was 10 years in the making. He asked us to take a few minutes to think about our children and what we wanted for them in the way of education. Some of the answers were: responsible for their education; challenged; safe; excited about learning; teachers to be excited; well-rounded; happy & healthy, etc. We then went on to tell him what we felt was important in regard to knowledge and skill. We responded with; preparing for secondary education; the classes to enable us to do this; reading; time management; communicating effectively; etc. We discussed what we learned when we went to school and the changes that have occurred since then. There is less of a focus on writing and spelling. Children today need to be critical thinkers; they need to have technology, foreign languages, the ability to see and translate information. There is a tradeoff between focusing on skills such as learning to be responsible, develop courage to question, really learning how to learn. Maine's SAT test scores are declining. Massachusetts has increased over the last four years. The push for all content being important for all students and the level of content is different than when we went to school. There are a lot of people who feel that their child should be reading by the time they go to kindergarten and if they're not, they're in trouble. Try to balance between life-long skills and provide the content that they need to make sense of the world around them. It's different for every kid.

David's primary job is overseeing the teacher's professional development; guidance around K-12 curriculum; working to support teachers instructionally in the classroom; observe and analyze student data; challenged very diverse group of people; provide services that weren't available in the past; etc. Two areas that are exciting: Full-day kindergarten. The children who did not have full-day K are not doing as well in math and reading in grade 3. The IB program (International Baccalaureate program), a rigorous, off-the-shelf curriculum, recognized by universities around the world and first introduced in 1968 – well before

globalization became a buzzword. To earn an I.B. diploma, students must prove written and spoken proficiency in a second languages, write a 4,000-word college-level research paper, complete a real-world service project and pass rigorous oral and written subject exams. Courses offer an international perspective, so even a lesson on the American Revolution will interweave sources from Britain and France with views from the Founding Fathers. Despite stringent certification requirements, I.B. schools are growing in the U.S. – from about 350 in 2000 to 682 today. The U.S. Department of Education has a pilot effort to bring the program to more low-income students. The I.B. is a two-year program for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Focus is on depth of learning, not breadth. The program is designed for students to take 6 courses: English, second language; individual society; sciences, math and elective; arts, etc. Courses are taught over two years. Students are assessed in school and also in formal exams. It is designed for the children who we think have the excitement for learning; the courage to question, and responsibility for their own learning. It is unlike anything else in the public high school. It has changed the way that teachers have taught their classes; it has impacted all of their training. It will be presented to the board in December. It is relatively expensive. He hopes that the board and community support it.

- V. Heather reviewed budget and thanks us for our feedback and honesty. Budget passed.
- VI. Treasurer – Everything is up to date. We received a bill for Bailey Sign for the work done on the two braces for the reader board. Moved \$200 into supplies and publicity. Have not seen any monies for internet purchases from Sally Foster. Other Sally Foster sales are complete. The budget number for enrichment was not correct, but Val will correct after she does the taxes. Other income – new category for Foundation 51. New form for treasurers. Works as a safeguard for people transferring monies between PTO members.
- VII. Fundraising – Sally Foster orders with problems and reorders are being faxed out tomorrow. Not too many complaints. One lost order form. Deb Regan talked about the Sunrise Guide. A healthy living book. Not a whole lot of interest in it. Doesn't know if its \$20.00/book. Other idea was to do a discount card. Look into soliciting area business to get discounts (Pizza, dry cleaning, etc.). Feeling is that people like to support things where they get a return on their investment. Perhaps do a January fundraiser around a discount card.
- VIII. Events – Muffin morning went well. We had lots of help for Bus Driver appreciation day. Family first night went well. Family night out Orbit with Corbitt was excellent. There were no problems with the topic. Possibly have him back. Lot's of other things other than movie night to do. Happy Wheels tomorrow. Holiday workshop scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School Gym. Still need volunteers.
- IX. Web site – no comment

- X. Publicity – no comment
  
- XI. Enrichment – no comment
  
- XII. Newsletter-no comment
  
- XIII. Secretary – no comment
  
- XIV. Co-chair information postponed due to time.
  
- XV. New Business – Lanyards – no decision yet on having badges district wide.  
Melissa suggested waiting until another fundraiser comes in. Have the expense come out of Teacher Appreciation week funds was another suggestion. Melissa will follow-up with staff as to what they need/want.
  
- XVI. Adjourn – 9:45 p.m.