

**PTO Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 13, 2007**  
**Greely Middle School**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and introductions were made.**

I. Minutes of February Meeting were approved.

II. **Attendees:** Pat Carroll, Heather Giandrea, Kelley Craig, Val Currier, Gwen Hall, Maureen Morrone, Sally Somes, Becky Sledjeski, Gloria Nicholson, Allii Ray, Emily Hawkins, Andrea Peebles, Melissa Skahen, Kim Brandt

III. Heather called the meeting to order. At 7:05. Heather introduced Kim Brandt, Greely Middle School principal. Kim thanked the PTO for the Rachael Simmons event. Kim was pleased that Rachael was able to present to GMS staff for professional development and also to students in two different groups, and community at GMS. She got a lot of positive feedback from the staff. The staff was glad for the common language to use and for the information in order to articulate this information and common strategies for reinforcing these practices. She got feedback from the kids that they said that Rachael Simmons gets us, she understood and could talk to us on our level. Kim felt that the students were enthralled and intent on listening to her. Kim felt that this was a very timely presentation and appreciated the support from. She felt that the challenge presenting us as a school community was how are we going to continue this? We all agreed that if we reach one child it's a success.

Kim also shared with us another concern that was a focus of Rachael Simmons; that of cyber bullying. She said that the middle school had a cyber bullying episode during February vacation. Apparently this student shared his password with other students, and then other people went into this student's *My Space* profile and altered the information with very negative and hurtful remarks about this student. It was traumatic for the student, and crushing for the family. We all talked about what could parents do to monitor their child's use of this space. Kim talked about what more can we, meaning the educator's, do to partner with parents to alleviate situations of this sort. All of this cyber bullying happened outside of school, but it flows into school. We all agreed that parents need to become involved. At school they are doing a lot of talking about these types of issues. The big thing is that any one can access this space. Sometimes, good kids make poor choices. Heather talked about perhaps having Corey MacDonald Detective, *Parent University* presentation? We also discussed having Jayne Hitchcock doing a student presentation to grades 6-8 on how to be safe on the Internet.

Bullying really peaks during the ages 10-14. Kim is raising awareness at GMS about harassment, education around bullying, and support through guidance, social service, and parent communication. Structure of teacher leader: spends time around kids, pro-active student discipline, and student assistance team. Ken Marks is the person at GMS dedicated to handling these issues. Kids and teachers know who to go to when these issues come up at school. There are consequences to bad behavior so that it deters and sends a strong message to school community. When something comes in anonymous, it is still addressed. Wayne Fordham, dean of students, is the person at GHS who currently focusing on these issues as well. Kim is also putting together a list on resources around bullying. Her goal is to make these resources available to parents. In MSAD 51, all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have laptops. With these laptops come responsibilities for parents, teachers and students. They are not allowed to Instant Message (IM) during class. There are blocks on this put on through the school, however, a lot of students can override the blocks. They erase history. Trying to control computer issues is like swimming upstream. Kim's advice is to educate your children to make good choices. The Apple remote desktops in school allows teachers to monitor by dropping in on who's doing what. There are consequences to inappropriate computer behavior - after school office detention.

**Heather** - Talked about the PTO bylaws. Donations to PTO are currently not tax deductible because of the type of organization we are. It is expensive to change this ( \$500). Some new responsibilities and new position of volunteer co-chair have been created. Who will be responsible to

gathering up volunteers. Volunteer co chair - work closely with Director of Volunteers. Tom has been sending out notes looking for volunteers and to those who have expressed an interest in the open PTO positions. Two changes box tops and volunteer co-chair. Motion to accept bylaws.

**Treasurer's report** see balance sheet. Val has the checkbook and has requested that people put slips in the mailbox and shoot her an email and let her know that the slip is in there so that she can issue a check.

**Fundraising** - Card has been developed and it has been decided to use heavier card stock and laminated. Businesses are: Skillins 10% off, City Brew Coffee 15% off for the year; Books 3tc. 5%, Brian Gilbert, Bruce's Burritos 10% off, 10% products at Tove, Foreside Tavern buy entrée free dessert, Toddy Brook, Ricettas, \$5 dollars off. The notices will be sent with kids and then kids will bring the form back into school with the money and then the cards will be sent into classes. The plan is to sell 500 and then if they sell more then we will have to go back to businesses and confirm that they wish to continue being on the card.

**Events** - Touch a Truck - It is hoped that the Touch a Truck event will raise enough funds (\$3,000) to kick off next year's enrichment funds. There are going to be approximately 30 different trucks. The kids will be able to climb in them and learn about them. There is an art contest for kids to design the t-shirt for this event.

- March 23<sup>rd</sup> Friday Rainforest safari - \$2 admission Flyers are going out tomorrow. Shari has done a Flyer that should be coming home
- Happy Wheels March 28<sup>th</sup>
- Teacher appreciation
- Wellness Day ? Wilson and DRS do a faculty wellness day. In-house and in community yoga, wellness day

**Enrichment** - K is going on a field trip to Toots for end of year celebration.  
Astronomy / Crescent beach for end of the year.

**Meeting adjourned @ 9:30pm**