

PTO Minutes
Tuesday, June 12, 2007

- I. Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. As the group was small, we dispensed with introductions.
- II. Minutes of May were not voted on as there were not enough members to do so.

Attendees: Kelley Craig, Valerie Currier, Shari Elder, Tom Gilley, Maureen Morrone, Gloria Nicholson, Brenda Pitcher, Catherine Robinson, Melissa Skahan, Becky Sledjeski

- III. Mission Moment - Tom shared several notes from teachers and staff thanking the PTO for all of the Appreciation Week activities.

- IV. New & Old Business

- a.) A moment was taken to thank the leaving members for their contribution and to welcome those joining us next year.

- b.) Tom prepared a document outlining his vision of the PTO for the 2007-2008 school year. At the moment there are six unfilled board positions. If the positions remain unfilled, the PTO will be unable to function at its current level. The document primarily proposes a scaled back fundraising and events schedule. The document also provides a probable scenario with a full board, which would look very similar to this past year. The bottom line is that without volunteers, the PTO cannot carry out the already demanding schedules required to plan and execute such huge events as the Holiday Workshop, among others. Our hope is that by September the positions will be filled, but it's important that PTO members and district parents are aware of the changes that low participation in the PTO may necessitate.

The other change recommended, regardless of the status of the board, is a reduced meeting schedule. With the use of e-mail to communicate quickly and effectively, and the preponderance of smaller meetings (more specific in focus), it's felt we can meet as a whole board only five times per year with no resulting ill effects.

Not included in Toms' memo, but discussed, were several other idea that will facilitate our goals. First, Melissa Skahan explained that in recent years, there has been less attention paid to orienting, training, and developing relationships with volunteers. She intends to rebuild the structure that makes it less intimidating for parents to get involved. Second, Val noted that quite often, teachers don't make it clear when an event is sponsored by the PTO. If we can make it more obvious to parents when an enrichment activity is made available to the children by the PTO, surely there will be greater interest in supporting and joining us in our efforts.

- V. Committee Reports

- a.) Treasurer: June 30th is the last day for receipts to be submitted as the books need to be closed. Items to be addressed for next year include a more streamlined system of invoicing the PTO from the busing department, and more stringent policy adherence regarding enrichment funds.
 - b.) Events: The year was finished up with a successful Memorial Mile and the suggestion that maybe more than 30 pies will be requested next year. Shari and Gwen plan a meeting with Brenda and Carin to pass on the events chair positions and all that's involved.

- c.) Fundraising: Touch-A-Truck was a success. The feedback was extremely positive and we intend to have it again next year. In the future, we believe people will look for this event. Our experience from this year has shown us several areas where we can improve including restructuring the pricing, eliminating t-shirt sales, and possibly eliminating an entertainer or two. The hope is that Touch-A-Truck will become a favorite in the community and a lucrative fundraiser for the PTO. Looking ahead to September, we are pursuing a booth at the Cumberland Fair. Approximately 50,000 people attend the fair on Friday and Saturday nights and it is an exciting prospect to do some fundraising in a venue that does not just target district families.
- d.) Website: No update.
- e.) Publicity: No update.
- f.) Enrichment: A small amount of money is left in the enrichment account with the only notable points being MIW/DRS under budget, and the 4th grade \$426.00 over budget.
- g.) Newsletter: No update.
- h.) Secretary: No update.
- i.) Co-chairs: June 23rd is the target installation date for the NYMS playground equipment. Don Foster and Tom Gilley are looking for help on this project. Several requests have been made to the PTO that we were not able to vote on due to low attendance at this meeting. They are a \$100.00 request for a new microphone and cables for the MIW Multipurpose room, and \$150 for DRS for two raised planting beds.

VI. Open

We talked a while about school consolidation. Most of us were not aware that MSAD #51 is required at this point to begin consolidation efforts and that those efforts have already begun via conversations with the Falmouth school district. The project is still very much in flux, though we are mandated to provide to the state a notice of intent by August 31, 2007. Melissa suggested we all pay close attention as so much is at stake and at present, still unclear.

VII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.