

MSAD #51 PTO Monthly Informational Meeting

Mabel I Wilson School

November 13, 2007 7:00pm

Present: Vickie Bell, Chistine Boure, Karen Bubar, Val Currier, Shari Elder, David Galin, Heather Giandrea, Tom Gilley, Andrea Goss, Maureen Marrone, Kellie Moxcey, Gloria Nicholson, Patty Normandeau, Andrea Peables, Brenda Pitcher, Susie Robbins, Melissa Skahan.

1. The meeting was Called to Order by Tom at 7:05 PM. Tom welcomed newcomers and guests. Introductions were made.
2. Tom welcomed Susie Robbins, MIW Principal. She shared the MIW Work Plan.
The primary goals and the plans for implementation she discussed were:
 - Effective and Purposeful Instruction
 - Effective Educators
 - Successful StudentsSusie focused her discussions on the new writing program "Units of Study" that was implemented last year. It is a K-5 program and skills build upon each other and are reviewed each year. The goal is to implement 6 of the 7 units this year. Last year three were in place. Much of the early release Wednesday Professional development is being focused in this area. This has also been a great way to unify K-5. Susie and a group of teachers visited a school in NYC that has implemented the program and was very impressed with how the program looks when fully in place. The teachers gained much energy and ideas.

Karen Bubar, Assistant Principal of MIW shared the "Responsive Classroom" approach. She shared a letter that will be sent home explaining this program. The focus of this program will start with the morning meeting and will work to help the goal of developing students academically, socially, and emotionally.

David Galin is the new principal of The Drowne Road School, as well as Curriculum Director for the District. Formerly he was principal of the Chebeague Island School. He shared that Mrs. M retired the second day of school, Mrs. Brackett has been hired. Literacy and math continue to be the primary focus. Developing community in a single grade school includes OWL meetings on Friday. There is sharing, speakers, and Hoot awards are given out.

The meeting was opened to questions.

Tom asked about the “Quiet” hallways at MIW. The goal is to try to not interrupt learning. The purpose is to keep the halls quiet as to not disturb the classrooms. Karen shared that staff members have had to work hard as well to model that behavior.

Maureen asked “What is a Unit of Study?” Lessons and Language are consistent K-5. The first unit is setting up the Writers workshop and teaching strategies for writing. Another example of one Unit is “Small Moments” teaching students to focus in a specific. K-2 has the same lessons, 3-5 has another set of lessons, but they work together to grow and develop over the years. Dave shared that “The Essay” is introduced.

Heather asked how the consolidation will affect DRS. David said he would not even venture a guess how consolidation will affect anything 😊! He then asked us to share insight about the K-5 experience.

Val and Shari shared that they prefer the status quo. Several others agreed.

Heather asked about the “Neighborhood” set up in the Middle school? David said this is being looked at. Andrea shared that she had been nervous about how the “Neighborhoods” would work for her student, but she has been pleased.

David did indicate that it was his belief that “consolidation isn’t going to change any educational aspects”. That will continue to be the number one priority through this process.

Tom asked if 3-5 should be put together when and if NYMS gets redone as Bob Hasson had implied when he was our guest.

Third grade could move back in MIW based on enrollment, but we would lose space for resource, computers, etc. Also K-3 isn’t necessarily the best configuration for students academically. 3-5 is a better match.

David and Karen thanked the PTO for their support at all levels.

Thank you to our guests for coming.

A Forum will be held November 14th regarding the International Baccalaureate for 11th and 12th graders.

Tom welcomed to Ericka Winchester who might be taking over the Box Top Program!

3. Approval of October Minutes

Val moved to accept the October Minutes, Patty seconded.
Motion carried.

4. New and Old Business

a. **Change to PTO Enrichment Guidelines**

Gloria moved to accept the changes proposed at the October meeting. Patty seconded. Motion carried without dissent.

b. **Budget**

See attachment 1.

Points of discussion:

- Under expenditures there was an additional line item of \$250 investment into a Fall Fair Booth to be done in conjunction with the Development Office and possibly Foundation 51 as a joint fundraising opportunity. Food service is developing a menu. This would be an investment in a future fundraiser. Heather asked about including Arts Alliance. Melissa explained that the Celebration of Arts is now funded by the Development Office and therefore it would already benefit.
- Gloria is working to find another piece of equipment for the DRS playground. She has suggested a piece that is being reviewed by Bob Hasson now. There is \$2500 in the budget to pay for the equipment; however Tom is working on a grant from Lowe's like the one he wrote for the NYMS climbing piece from last year.
- Val raised a concern about the smaller buffer left at year end with the per student enrichment up from \$12 to \$15. Although members felt her concern was valid, the overall consensus was to keep the budget as written and work to stay within budget at all levels and to maximize fundraising whenever possible.

Motion to accept the budget was made by Shari. Gloria seconded. Motion passed without dissent.

Thank you to Tom for his hard work putting this together.

5. Committee Reports

a. **Volunteer**

Melissa reported that requests are being filled and the volunteer registration has been a great tool for reaching out to new volunteers. It has been great to reach out to new people and not hit the same people over and over again.

b. Events

Brenda reported about the following events:

Bus Driver/ Custodian Appreciation/ Food service was a success. Bakers came from a new group of volunteers thanks to the volunteer database.

Family Night Out with Gordon Corbett was a great program, however attendance was low. There were 9 families in attendance, 4 from PTO. The board discussed how to better communicate information.

Happy Wheels was a great success. There were 144 paid participants and we made \$180.

Holiday Workshop- 2 people are helping Brenda with this and she is meeting with them November 14th to finalize tables.

c. Treasurers

Valerie distributed November Balance sheet and reviewed. Kelly has completed the Tax return. Val will review and then send out.

Gloria asked about 4th grade Maine Maritime receipts? Val has not seen anything as of yet.

Now that the budget is approved, Val will give check to Patty for the Kindergarten play.

d. Fundraising

Awesome job to Gloria & Donna! A few missing or wrong items were delivered, but it is "wrapping" up!

e. Website

Looks great... be sure to submit to Tyra!

f. Publicity

Newsletter went out. All will work to reduce the amount of information for future. Flyers will be used to send home for upcoming events.

g. Enrichment

Patty reported that Thursday is the 7th grade Celebration of Africa. She will have pictures for the website.

Melissa shared about the IB Forum November 14th. She also suggested that we have some type of forum on Internet Bullying.

h. Secretary

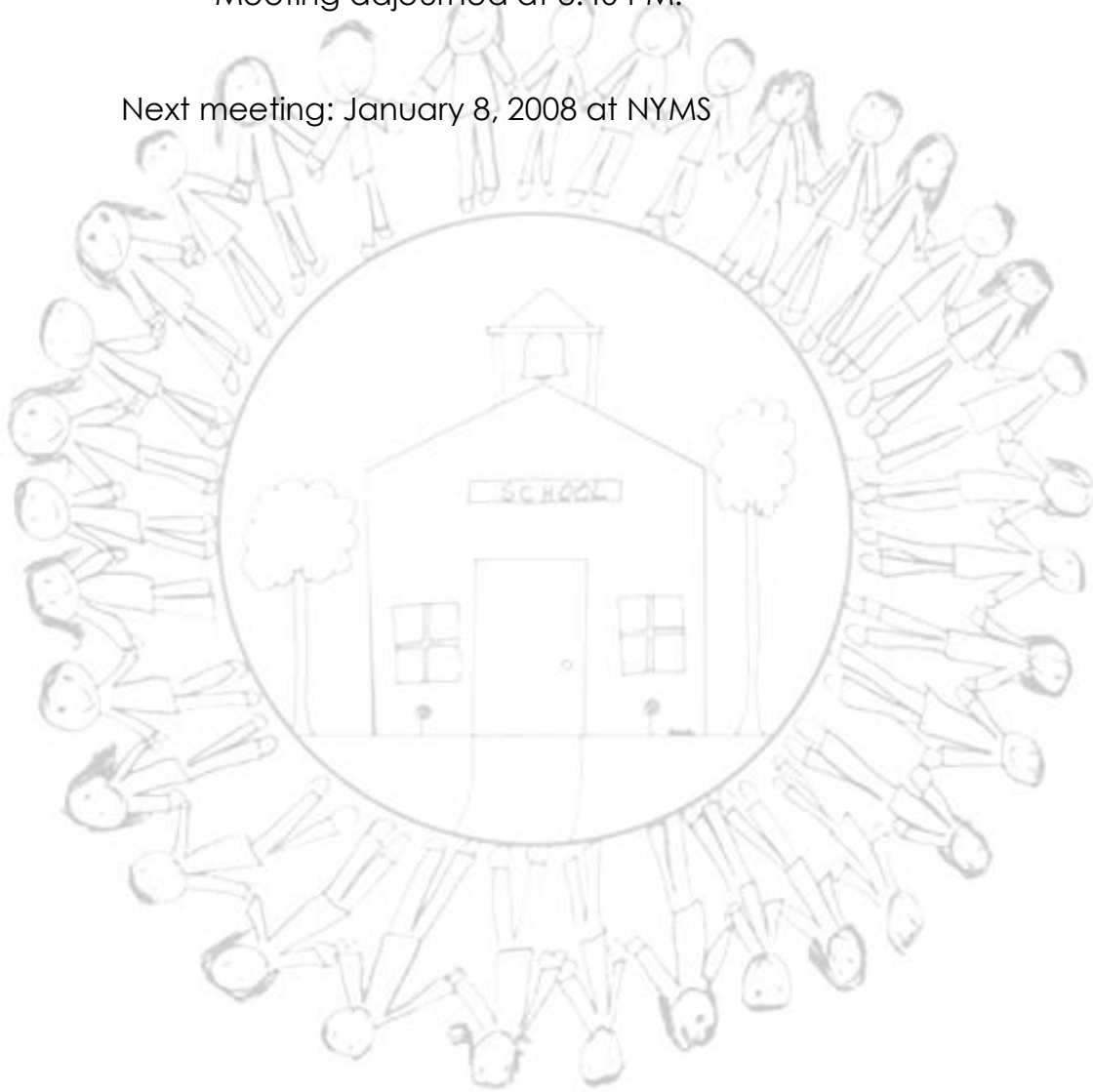
No report.

i. Co- Chair

See written report attachment 2.

7. Motion to adjourn made by Val, Seconded by Gloria.
Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Next meeting: January 8, 2008 at NYMS



Attachment 2

Chair Synopsis for November 2007

Na-na-na-na-na!! Kathy Locker at MIW has requested help with a project about No Name Calling week. The general call for help is out, all inquiries should be directed to Kathy Locker at MIW. The website is: www.nonamecallingweek.org

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Drowne Road School staff and kids have been hoping for new equipment for their playground. They currently have swings, tether ball, and a climber. Gloria Nicholson has done some preliminary research and came up with a nice piece from Gametime. The price is approximately 1800.00, and I have included it as a line item in the budget for 2,500. This estimate includes concrete and other expenses.

Final approval is pending from Dr. Hasson, and then I will need to meet with Don Foster and get his input on the feasibility of placement. I plan to write another grant for Lowe's Toolbox for Education to help cover the cost of the equipment so we will not be paying for the complete project, but there is also no guarantee we will receive the grant.

I believe that without a doubt the equipment is needed at the school in order to improve the kids ability to release there energy in order to help them focus in the classroom. Does this meet the requirements set before us in our by-laws? I believe it does because it helps enhance our children's education by providing a better environment for learning.

Fall Fair Booth

I have listed another new budget item: Fall Fair Booth. I am hoping to get a booth built in conjunction with other organizations for the Cumberland Fair in order to help with fundraising. Tapping into a new venue like the fair can relieve the burden of fundraising on the local level.

Boxtops Bonanza

We welcome aboard two new Boxtops Coordinators who have stepped up to help out. Kellie Moxcey, & Ericka Winchester. Welcome Aboard!!!

I just submitted \$860 in boxtops for our December check, thanks to all who participate in this program.

Communication

I love to learn from my mistakes, and I enjoy hearing positive feedback and ideas from the board and community in general. Based on some of this feedback I am going to start augmenting my communications with written flyers, and I urge the other chairs to do the same.

I am also creating and distributing a new monthly flyer I have dubbed "PTO Refrigerator Bling" a one page sheet of the PTO's monthly events and activities. Hopefully something people can put on their fridge for reference.

Welcome to Audrey Lones who will be taking care of our NYMS readerboard for the remainder of the year.

IB Forum

The International Baccalaureate Forum at GHS on November 14 6:30 pm has 15 confirmed attendees thus far. I invite you all to attend to learn more about this new program that is being implemented.

Submitted--Tom Gilley

