

MSAD #51 PTO

Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2010

7:00pm

Mabel I Wilson Library

Attending: Vickie Bell, Stacey Carlson, Linda Collins, Heather Giandrea, Carol Lambert, Maureen Morrone, Gloria Nicholson, Jennifer Segal, Tracy Silverman, Laura Singer, Beth Smith

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

2. Presentations

There was no presentation this evening.

3. Approval of October 2009 and November 2009 Minutes

Vicki motioned; Maureen seconded; Minutes were approved.

4. Old & New Business

- ❖ Heather and Gloria reviewed the successes we are having in enhancing communication within the district. Heather serves on the Communications Committee along with Karen Campbell-Chair, Susan Campbell, David Galin, Bethany Hanley, and Dirk Van Curan - exciting because that means the PTO, the School Board, and the Superintendent's Office gather bi-weekly to focus on communication. These meetings are allowing voices to filter up. To disseminate information, Bethany Hanley is working on something new - Fact Sheets. Fact Sheets will share information with the community about specific topics such as the Greely HS Renovation or the IB Program. They will be short, directed, and concise. The School Board and Superintendent's Office are also visiting each school to talk with administrators on an ongoing basis. CommunityDialogue51 is running well, and includes community members that do not have students in the district. It continues to include parents, teachers, administrators and town officials. We are pleased to see that, as CD51 is intended to help inform and receive feedback from all community members. Anyone interested who is not yet registered can join the dialogue by sending an e-mail to CommunityDialogue51-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- ❖ It's not too early to begin thinking about the District Budget Vote on June 3, 2010. Between now and then there will be numerous opportunities for residents to become informed and to be involved. Of note are the following:
 - *January 19, 2010* *Presentation from the High School Leadership Team*
 - *February 1, 2010* *Presentation on Drug and Alcohol Issues at MSAD51*
 - *March 1, 2010* *Presentation on All Day Kindergarten*
Report from the Sustainability Committee
- ❖ Ruth's Recyclables has been a huge benefit to the district: our teachers have already used approximately \$40,000.00 worth of supplies this year. All of those supplies were free after the PTO paid for the membership. We are disappointed that we will not be able to fund MSAD51's membership next year and hope that it is not discontinued. We discussed several funding ideas including the possibility of Ruth's membership fee becoming a portion of each teachers supply budget, identifying a benefactor, holding a dedicated fundraiser, or applying for grant money. The cost is \$2 per student, or approximately \$4,100.00 total, and that buys a membership for every MSAD51 teacher in every MSAD51 school.
- ❖ We are pleased to be able to donate \$500.00 to Project Graduation again this year.

5. Committee Reports

a) Treasurer

We are still collecting from Sally Foster and expect to be finalized soon.

b) Events

On February 8, 2010 at 6:30pm at Greely Middle School we are having a Family Night Out featuring a magician named Peter Boie. We will be selling snacks and drinks in the lobby. Jen is recruiting helpers including greeters, bakers, poster makers, and snack-table workers. Jen suggested that we have a strong PTO Board presence as the PTO is hosting and financing the event, and it's a nice opportunity to illustrate what we do.

c) Fundraising

Beth believes we need to rethink Sally Foster because after two years as Fundraising Chair, she's observed the investment of time required to organize and execute this fundraiser is not worth the return we are getting. However, we are aware that many community members look forward to Sally Foster and will take that into consideration. Simply increasing the members of the Fundraising Committee would be a huge help. Moving forward, we are hoping to raise an additional \$2000 - \$4000 this year. Memorial Mile is estimated to earn \$1,000. Ideas are being explored for a PTO function after the race or parade as that is a time when many people are gathered in Cumberland Center looking for family oriented activities. It's possible we will partner with the Cumberland Recreation Committee on something. We are also considering a new fundraiser that uses children's artwork to create items such as note cards and t-shirts.

d) Publicity

No update.

e) Enrichment

The 1st grade is planning a trip to the Wadsworth-Longfellow House in Portland.

f) Volunteer

No update.

g) Secretary

No update.

h) Co-Chair

"21 Reasons" – We briefly discussed the efficacy of bringing "21 Reasons" to Greely in some form, such as a Parent University or PTO Meeting. "21 Reasons" is a program that uses community organizing to strengthen community policies, enforcement and attitudes to reduce youth access to alcohol.

6. Questions and Comments

Katie Campbell is a keynote speaker at the Gay Straight Alliance for her work with *No-Name Calling Week*. MSAD51 is a model that GSA hopes to implement statewide.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2010 at 7pm in the Mabel Wilson Library
Respectfully submitted: Maureen Morrone, Co- Secretary, January 20, 2010