

MSAD #51 PTO

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2010

7:00pm

Mabel I Wilson Library

Attending: Vickie Bell, Stacey Carlson, Linda Collins, Heather Giandrea, Bethany Hanley, Maureen Morrone, Gloria Nicholson, Jen Rohde, Beth Smith

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm.

2. Presentations

There was no presentation this evening.

3. Approval of January 2010 Meeting Minutes

Stacey motioned; Vicki seconded; not enough Board members were in attendance (at the time) to take a vote.

4. Old & New Business

❖ Linda Collins opened tonight's meeting telling us about a discussion she and Jen Rohde had with David Galin, the district Curriculum Director, about bringing cultural diversity, cultural programming, and foreign language lessons to the lower grades. The idea works nicely with the International Baccalaureate program at the high school, and would eventually contribute to the success of IB by providing a feeder system. We are in the very early stages and don't expect anything for several years, especially in light of the budget shortfalls which are sure to take a lot of time and energy. The form that these cultural initiatives would take has yet to be defined, but they will most likely stay under the PTO umbrella. One idea is to model it after the Arts Alliance, which is very successful bringing art into the classroom. The Arts Alliance uses only volunteers and comes to class with a lesson and materials, requiring little from teachers. Another idea is to include the IB students at the high school - they can work with younger students and the time they devote will help them meet their IB community service requirements. David is exceptionally busy right now, but was receptive and will talk with administrators about it.

❖ Board Openings 2010-11

The openings were published early this year in the hopes that the increased exposure will result in increased interest. Currently there are 9 openings including two Co-Chair positions.

❖ Memorial Mile

The Town of Cumberland has asked the PTO to take full responsibility for Memorial Day activities. Typically, the PTO sponsors the Memorial Mile run. What is being proposed is that we also coordinate the parade, the vendors, and some entertainment. The Town is still very invested in having a community event, so they have offered to pay for the entertainment. Our hope would be to streamline the schedule of activities and extend them a bit. We would also coordinate and direct the efforts of any groups interested in participating, giving us further opportunity to shape the event. One idea suggested was that booster groups who want to fundraise at the races can provide a small activity in addition to whatever they are selling. Another suggestion was to focus on the patriotic nature of the holiday by having patriotic themed entertainment and a table where community members can write postcards to servicemen and women currently deployed. This is a unique and rare opportunity for us to expand upon an already popular community event and potentially increase our fundraising while providing a more rewarding experience for participants and attendees. Our March meeting will focus on Memorial Day planning.

5. Committee Reports

a) Treasurer

Sally Foster is completed and the Budget is in order.

b) Events

- The Family Night Out that took place on February 8, 2010 was a huge hit. Approximately 220 people were there enjoying the show. The attendant bake sale was also a success.
- No Name Calling Week received mixed reviews this year, which we believe is due in part to several staff transitions. We will celebrate NNCW next year, with a few adjustments, because it's a helpful reminder for us all to be kind.

c) Fundraising

We are on track to meet our goal for the year. New avenues are being explored to potentially replace Sally Foster. Regardless of what is decided, we need more people to help with the large fundraisers.

d) Publicity

No update.

e) Enrichment

- To help keep the community informed about some of what we do here at the PTO, we will compile a comprehensive list of the Enrichment activities the PTO funded this year. We'd like to publish the list in a variety of media including newsletters to teachers, on our website, in the Notes and the Forecaster, and on posters at the Memorial Mile and other events.
- Many grades are still planning Enrichment activities. Some ideas:
 - 1st grade – trip to Longfellow House, visit from Portland School of Ballet
 - 3rd grade – a variety of Maine Native American trips and/or visits
 - 4th grade – visit from Boston Museum of Science
 - 5th grade – trip to Funtown
 - 6th grade – visit from a poet, Medical Round Robin, the fish release
 - 8th grade – trip to the State Museum in AugustaPTO funds may not be used to pay for Ice Cream Socials.

f) Volunteer

No update.

g) Secretary

No update.

h) Co-Chair

“21 Reasons”, the alcohol awareness program, will present at the April PTO Meeting. Elections for open Board positions will take place at the May PTO meeting. Heather suggested that we all take a few minutes to revisit the PTO Purpose and Goals statement because it's important that we continue to check what we are doing to make sure it's applicable to our mission.

6. Questions and Comments

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2010 at 7pm in the Mabel Wilson Library
Respectfully submitted: Maureen Morrone, Co-Secretary, March 1, 2010