

**MSAD #51 PTO
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2010
CTO: 7:06 pm**

1. Attending: Erika Winchester, Jen Rohde, Beth Smith, Maureen Morrone, Gloria Nicholson, Heather Giandrea, Linda Collins, Stacey Carlson, Andrea Peabbles, Kelly Craig, Connie Russell, Sue Williams, Sue Pynchon, Deb Regan, Sara Perfetti, Vickie Bell, Bethany Hanley

2. Introduction of guests

Connie Russell, Teachers Union President, and Sue Williams, Teachers Union Vice President present to speak generally about the school budget process.

Reviewed general organization of Teacher's Union Executive Board:

President = Connie Russell

VP= Sue Williams

Executive Board = teacher representatives

Goal of Exec board is to be proactive starting this year due to severe budgetary cuts anticipated – to be presented to MSAD#51 School Board on Monday 3/15/10 at 7pm at the Town Hall by Dr. Hasson. Anticipate ~\$1.4 M in cuts. Due to schedule change, the sustainability committee will also present that night after the board. They will address building transitions.

Additional Budget Forum scheduled for 4/15/10 for further budget review.

Recommending increased public attendance and participation in the forums, meetings as proposed budget is presented and through the finalization process when the budget is put to a vote. Reminded all present that the School Board is always open to public questions and comment via phone calls and e-mail throughout this process.

Once budget is rolled out and put to the public for approval, the Teacher's Union is strongly encouraging approval. The prior year, the failure to approve the initial budget by public vote led to the Board's decision to maintain the general proposed budget, and incorporate an additional \$0.7M in cuts.

Question: Is there any way to use exit-poll data, ask voters for voluntary feedback to assist the Board in the event of disapproval of the proposed budget?

Beth Smith stated she could inquire into this, however no clear legal reason not to.

Question: Is data available from 09-10 budget cuts, and is it used by SI and or School Board to help manage further cuts in funding?

No.

Question: Parent stated that she just found out the reason for the large number of ed techs in the lower grades is to help identify special needs kids. Has the Teachers Union considered putting out any information regarding basic roles of certain positions, and their impact within the school.

Fact sheet would help educate the community at large.

Exec Board's biggest concern is the community won't support the proposed budget and that will force deeper cuts. Everyone wants to keep cuts away from the children.

Question: Could town and district share services (payroll) to cut down on administrative costs?

Question: Concerned that without cuts to administration, whether there will be community support?

Teachers do not feel administration is overstaffed. Well under the state average. More a question of how best to maximize resources.

Question: What is objective way to identify maximum funding for kids? Frustration expressed over feeling of limited input.

25-30 positions potentially to be eliminated in proposed budget.

3/15/10 – School Board Meeting (open microphone)

4/15/10 - Budget Forum

Role of Board of Directors is to advance a budget that will pass. The question now is can we save our roads and our schools?

Teachers are unable to engage in questions regarding the budget with parents until the budget becomes public.

No formal external evaluation or feedback is available for teachers under their current contract.

Guest speakers concluded their remarks.

3. Approval of January and February Minutes

No discussion, minutes approved.

4. Old and New Business

Amendment of articles 2, 7 and 9 of 501(C)(3) application. Language changed to adhere to the code. No discussion or opposition. So approved.

Andrea Peabbles of Arts Alliance thanked PTO for our assistance in Arts month.

5. Committee Reports

a) Treasurer

Three checks received. No income. Budget worksheet submitted.
No information on late filing fee from IRS.

b) Events

TV turn off week coming up – teachers have information. All 5 librarians responded, 0 administration feedback.

Tyra updated website.

c) Enrichment

No report for March.

d) Fundraising

Mori and Beth to divide assignments for Memorial Mile.

Focus to honor and celebrate the Veterans. PTO to be new steward of event.

New potential schedule (drafted by H. Giandrea and given to Beth Smith to finalize).

7-7:45 Registration

8-8:30 Fun Run – staggered start to decrease injury

8:30-9 Adult run

9:30 Awards

9:45 Parade line up

9:30-10 Singers, event appropriate activities on the green

10-10:20 Parade to cemetery (singer, speeches)

10:45-11 Parade completion

11am District photo

New parade route to loop back after speeches and end at monument across from Congregational Church to honor both monuments with the lying of wreaths on both.

Maine Senators and Congresswoman invited for the dedication of the Veteran's Monument at Moss Side Cemetery.

Need identified for schedule of events to be posted on GHS lawn.

Point persons:

Run – Beth Smith

Parade – Dan Small (coordinating)

Bill Shane (banners, safety logistics)

New event: District photograph to be taken by fire station personnel using ladder truck ~ 11am at conclusion of events. Prints to be available for purchase from the PTO.

Town requesting no outside fundraising in keeping with the spirit of the celebration, and no entertainment until the completion of parade.

Cumberland Rec Dept to provide 5 male acapella singers for entertainment x1 hour.

After race, food/drink donations - Possible water stations donation by Val Halla. Free vs. sale of water – must choose.

Boosters to participate by challenging one another – craziest costumes, etc.

Question whether makes sense to limit any extra events this year due to many changes and then ramp up for the following year after initial success.

Ellen and 5K Sports to continue PTO support through race coordination. Steve Moriarty and group looking to assist if/when PTO needs additional assistance.

- e) **Publicity**
No report.
- f) **Volunteer**
No report.
- g) **Secretary**
No report.
- h) **Co-Chair**
No report.

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted: Stacey Carlson, Co-Secretary; March 16, 2010.