

MSAD #51 PTO

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2010

7:00pm

Mabel I Wilson Library

Attending: Vickie Bell, Karen Campbell, Lalla Carothers, Linda Collins, Heather Giandrea, Bethany Hanley, Luann Lawler, Mori LeFevre, Maureen Morrone, Sara Perfetti, Brenda Pitcher, Beth Smith

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

2. Presentations

There was no presentation this evening.

3. Approval of March 2010 Meeting Minutes

We did not vote on March Minutes because we did not have quorum.

4. Old & New Business

Board Openings 2010-11

There are only two open Board positions: one two-year Co-Fundraiser position and one two-year GMS/GHS Enrichment Chair. We are confident that these positions will be filled by the Fall.

Volunteerism

Although not on the agenda, we talked a lot about how to better access and utilize the vast personnel resources in our community to fill the voids we are expecting will be left by impending tight budgets.

- Karen Campbell from the school board told us of a Development Grant we've applied for that would allow us to hire someone to recommence some of the functions Melissa Skahan, Director of Development and Volunteer Coordinator, was working on when she left.
- An effort is underway in the district to pull all of the Athletic Booster groups together and coordinate their fundraising efforts. As the high school loses athletic funding, boosters will become more important. Ideally, non-athletic fundraising groups would also be included such as the PTO, Arts Alliance, and Foundation 51.
- The schools often ask for community involvement, but what many people are not aware of is the extent to which the schools give back to the community. Just two examples include the Service Learning Class at the high school that has done a lot of community service work, and the dozens of high school student volunteers participating in the *Bigs and Littles* program. These successes could be expanded on and promoted through a Development Office.
- Some brainstorming was done on how to connect the Senior Citizens in our towns to what is going on in the school.
- It was suggested that perhaps class-room teachers could identify areas of need that the PTO would specifically train volunteers to meet. In this case, we'll most likely form a subcommittee to organize this more directed type of volunteer staff.

5. Committee Reports

a) Treasurer

The budget is in order. With our final Box-Tops submission we expect to achieve our Income goal.

b) Events

Staff Appreciation day is April 28th and involves providing treats for the staff who work in all MSAD#51 buildings. Teacher Appreciation Week will follow on May 3rd through May 7th. The details of that event have yet to be defined.

c) Fundraising

- Memorial Day activities continue to evolve. Presently, the PTO will be coordinating the Races, and the Town of Cumberland will be coordinating the Parade and a Community Photo. This is a special year as the dedication of a new Cumberland Veterans Monument will occur at the Moss Side Cemetery during the Parade. No fundraising (other than the races) will be permitted as there's a concern that it would distract from the reverence appropriate for Memorial Day. The PTO will help the Town manage requests for fundraising opportunities. The Community Photo will be taken in front of Greely Institute after the Parade. Issues surrounding who will own the rights to the photo and how people can purchase a copy are being worked on.
- Mentioned in the past, and reiterated at this meeting is the notion that we should make it very clear during the Sally Foster fundraiser, that individuals can make a donation in lieu of a purchase. Last year we received \$3,000.00 in donations which strongly suggests a portion of our population is amenable to directly giving to the PTO.

d) Publicity

The Website information looks great and is current. The Newsletters also look great and continue to go out on schedule.

e) Enrichment

- Kindergarten is going to see a production of *"If You Give a Pig a Pancake"* and use their remaining funds to buy planting supplies. Linda is working with the other grades in MIW to spend the remainder of their Enrichment money.
- Lalla told us about a Locavore Lunch in the works for MIW. The lunch would occur during regular lunchtime for the students and would be comprised of all local foods. The librarian is involved and will be reading at least one book with the students at their regular Library time prior to the lunch. There's a possibility that other activities may be added and Drowne Road School may be included.

f) Volunteer

No update.

g) Secretary

No update.

h) Co-Chair

No Update.

6. Questions and Comments

Brenda mentioned that the Cumberland Farmers Market has many vendors who are experts in their field who would be willing to come to school and educate the children if the Locavore Lunch is expanded.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Elections and Annual Meeting: May 11, 2010 at 7pm in the Mabel Wilson Library
Respectfully submitted: Maureen Morrone, Co-Secretary, April 14, 2010