

PTO Meeting

October 14, 2010–Peirce Library

Minutes

PTO officers and committee chairs in attendance:

Susan Goetcheus, Janice Weinberg, Karen Hartley, Sarah Forney, Tara Lamont, Carl Elder, Jessica Callaghan, Dorothy Schuette, Cindy ReVelle, Jocelyn Willet, Mrs. T, Andrea Canty

- PTO co– president (Susan): Most recent events–town day, movie night and grounds clean up. All a success. PTO table at open house next Thursday night. Will be selling community cards, as well as wrist bands. Town wide PTO meeting on 10/25 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled to end of November. Dead line for next Verse Sunday, October 17th.
- Principal Report (Karen Hartley): First school council meeting held. Will be working on school improvement plan, which includes safety plan, and bullying. Additionally the council will be setting goals for the year. Connect Ed is on its way!
- Treasurer’s Report: The annual drive is still going on. Town Day generated over 700\$ in profits. Community card sales are beginning.
- Community Outreach (Jessica): Three projects this year. In Feb, food drive to celebrate 100th day of school. Fall project, Coats for Kids project which collects coats and distribute to kids in need. Will also collect adult coats. Spring project ideas, perhaps literacy program? Wants to keep projects focused on kids, families and local. Read Across America could be tied in to projects.
- Cultural Enrichment (Jocelyn): Literacy night towards the end of the year. Author (Julie Hahnke) would come in to do workshops (K/ 1, 2/3, 4/5) such as haikus, poetry, writing scenes in Feb or March leading up to literacy night. Julie wrote a grant to support some of the costs, therefore, will cost us much less than previous author

enrichment activities. In December, person bringing in tepee in association with Native American programming.

- Fundraising (Sarah): Saturday October 16th, Fun Run and Walk-A-Thon. Goal is to raise \$2500. Community Shopping Card costs 10\$ each, 5\$ benefits Peirce School and gives discounts to many local businesses. They will be sold at the walk-a-thon and November bake sale. Will need volunteers for November 2nd bake sale (people to bake and work the sale). Wilson pie sales will happen at walk-a-thon and at bake sale. They will arrive frozen the week before Thanksgiving. Next Tuesday, October 19th Menotomy Beer and Wine will have a wine tasting and donate 10% of all wine sales to local schools. Must specify the Peirce School at time of purchase. Rummage sale/pancake breakfast in Feb. No furniture or electronics. Bottle and can recycling is not currently happening. If volunteer steps forward to coordinate, it could potentially resume. Previously, it has raised 800\$/year.
- Hospitality (Susan) Pumpkin decorating coming up on Friday, October 29th (after school) and is 3\$ a pumpkin. Movie night was a success.
- Library Enrichment (Mrs. T): Library classes going well. For extra gym/library class, classes are going outside and learning kickball and 4 square. Dorothy Schuette has come in to do gardening during that time. Other parents have volunteered as well to assist during this period.
- SAME/Science Garden (Carl/Dorothy): Wacky Math is all set up. Big event is bottle rockets on October 23rd from 2-5 next to skating rink. Just Peirce students and show up anytime during those hours. Science Garden-clean up happened on Friday and was a success. K playground and gated area were cleaned up, as well as landscaping by stairway. If any teachers are interested in autumn gardening programs, parents are willing to help.
- Teacher Rep (Tara Lamont): Will relay information raised at meeting to teachers.
- Other items: None

- AEF grant cycle (June Rutkowski): Fall grant cycle is currently open and anyone is welcome to apply. AEF is a town wide organization that distributes money throughout the town to fund education related programs. Distribute funds to support pilot projects or projects that enrich curriculum. Grants are typically 250\$–5000\$. Peirce has good track record of receiving grants. Examples of successful grants: composting project, 2nd grade Japanese puppets, 4th grade concert. Teachers, parents, community members can apply for grants and teachers must be on board with proposals. Application deadline is November 15th and decisions would be made before the first of the year. There will be another grant cycle in April. If people have questions on specifics on grant, be in touch with June. After funding is granted, you have 18 months to complete project. June is looking for a replacement to attending AEF meetings. Meetings happen once a month on Sunday evenings. Someone should have technological skills, financial skills or enthusiasm!
- Learning by Design Project (Ingrid Gallagher): Grant (1500\$) granted for “box city”. Original use of grant was supposed to be for professional development for 4th grade teachers and with the 4th graders. May need to switch the grant to another grade level, but would have to discuss with AEF.
- Volunteer for afternoon chess club: PTO approached by chess club from Cambridge, however it would be a great deal of organizing for Peirce without any financial benefit, therefore looking for a member of the Peirce community to run program. Perhaps older kids teaching younger children?
- Other business: Congratulations to Jen Carter (5th grade teacher) who had her baby.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.