

# PTO Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2010

## 1. Co-presidents' remarks: Janice Weinberg

- October has been a productive month: walk-a-thon, pies, Ben Franklin, bottle rockets. Thanks to all who have helped!
- Thanks to Joy Spadafora for completing the directory.
- Verse items to Krissie Delaney by Sunday.
- After school enrichment program flyer will be coming home soon. Program would be starting in the spring.
- Next PTO meeting scheduled for an early release day. Next meeting moved to Thursday, December 16, 2010.
- Town wide PTO meeting on Monday, November 29 at 6:30 pm in the 4th floor meeting room at the Robbins Library.

## 2. Report from teacher: Laura Goldstein: School Projector

- Current overhead projectors at Peirce are from 1970/1980. Projector hoping to purchase is a camera that projects and can be hooked up to a computer. Can be used for read-a-louds, projecting any pages/objects such as maps, student work, photos, plants. Can attach a microscope to the projector. Currently these projectors are at the Ottoson, High School. If we could purchase one projector per grade level, it would be greatly used! There is no money in the town budget for this purchase. Cost is 1300\$ and potentially be grant funded.

## 3. Principal's report: Karen Hartley

- Alert Now will start on Monday with a test alert. First official communication will be on Wednesday with the early release day before Thanksgiving.
- Sneaker drive: Bin outside Mrs. T's. playcare room. Sneakers collected will be donated to create a basketball court at a school in need. Notice will go out in Margy's bulletin.
- Karen is hoping to use the first 10-15 minutes of each PTO meeting as an opportunity to communicate educational based topics to the Peirce Community. First topic suggested for December will be bullying.

#### **4. Carol Greeley: Inclusive Schools Week in December 6-10**

- Celebrate our school and our teachers who are making inclusion work. Potential of showing a movie, “Including Samuel” to honor the week (December 9<sup>th</sup>). Perhaps put a notice in the bulletin each day. Involve the students in the celebration. Carol and Karen will put together a plan and pass along to teachers for suggestions on how to celebrate. Not only celebrating the inclusion program, but celebrating the diversity of our community. Next year hoping for a bigger celebration.

#### **5. Treasurer Report: Lori Pescatore**

- Bottle and Can drive need to be removed from the budget. Eliminate line item for social/emotional and line item for Advisory Council becomes \$1000. Inclusion teachers (5) get 150\$ each, 750\$ total (line item for classroom supply- specialists). Voted in.

#### **6. Committee Reports**

- Community Outreach: Jessica Callaghan: Collected 25 coats for coat drive. Turkey drive to be held on Monday morning (November 22) to benefit DCF.
- Cultural Enrichment: Jocelyn Willet (not present): Native American program coming up soon. Many things in the works for the spring. Massachusetts Cultural Council grant to potentially do a mural for the school.
- Fundraising: Sarah Forney: Great volunteers for the fun run/walk-a-thon and bake sale. Pies are still available for pickup. Community cards still available for sale. Spring fair and rummage sale coming up in winter/spring. Martin Greismer organizing electronic recycling to happen either Sat, April 2 or 9<sup>th</sup>. Last year made 1200\$. Look into when town of Arlington will hold their recycling event.
- Hospitality/Social: Lori Pescatore: Bingo night is tomorrow night at 6:30pm. Talent show/spaghetti dinner coming up after the holidays.
- Library Enrichment: Mrs. T.: In January and February, thinking of changing the days of library/recess to have use of the gym during the colder weather. Shared potential of a grant (\$1500) to fund an intern to come in to teach dance.
- SAME/Science Garden: Carl Elder: Bottle Rockets were a huge success. Museum of Science (to be scheduled) come to school for every grade. Mass Audubon, bubbles, biodiversity program also coming up in spring. Martine: Outdoor Compost program for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and indoor compost program for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be implemented before the end of the year. Supplies still need to be purchased.

- Teacher representatives: Tara Lamont: Pajama drive started today. For every pair of pajamas collected, scholastic will donate a book. K will do the Box City project.

#### **7. Science Garden:** Dorothy Schuette and Martine Gougault

- Soil testing done for vegetable garden and within normal range. For 5<sup>th</sup> graders, potential project of doing soil testing of other areas of our school. Also potential of bringing a teacher from the Landscape Institute to talk to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders about composting and why soil testing is important. Container planters have traditionally been planted with Pathways students. Looking for another group to take over those planters, perhaps designate a grade to take over responsibility. Tara Lamont will email the teachers. Estimate 100\$/per planter. Hoping to have social event to celebrate the science garden, perhaps on Arbor Day (April 29<sup>th</sup>). Serve “dirt and worms” dessert and do a planting. Also in the process of making a sign for the garden, kids in upper grades would design an illustration in art class.

#### **8. Afternoon chess club:** Dorothy Schuette

- 18 kids are interested. Brian Epstein will be lead teacher. Other volunteers to help with crowd control. Starts December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:15-3:30pm. Planning meeting for parent volunteers to be held soon. Funds needed for 10 chess boards or need to get donated ones. Susan will make post to Arlington List. PTO can make up difference for what is not received. Also seeking advice from community on how to successfully teach chess clubs for kids.

#### **9. Read Across America/International Festival :** Dorothy Schuette

- February 11<sup>th</sup> (Friday night) for event. Planning is beginning, thinking of inviting a storyteller to the event.

#### **10. Other Business and announcements :**

- Pajama Day needs to be scheduled. Perhaps during the school assembly on the results of Pajama Drive.