

# **PTO MEETING AGENDA**

**March 10, 2010, 6:30 PM in the library**

## **1. Welcome and co-presidents' remarks: Susan Goetcheus/Janice Weinberg**

**-Deadline for the March verse is this Saturday evening**

**- AEF Trivia Bee: teams of three adult members. Susan Goetcheus would like to get together a team to represent the school. Teams compete for fun prizes in different categories such as Arlington trivia, history, sports, science, literature and art. Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm at town hall.**

**- Contribution to METCO annual fundraiser (Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> in Quincy): Discussion of 7 elementary schools taking out ad in their program book to support METCO. Ad would cost Peirce approximately 35\$. Voted to support motion.**

**-Request from former alumni of Peirce to start a Facebook page for Peirce. Karen has asked administrators in Arlington and is waiting to hear the answer.**

**-Family in need in town. Husband recently passed away, three surviving children. Lori Pescatore asked PTO for donation of 250-500\$. Vote to allocate funds depending on what other schools in Arlington doing to support fund.**

**-For April meeting, Mark Ryder and Lori Villani (special education) will be attending. Next year, K will have an inclusion classroom and will discuss plans at next meeting.**

## **2. Principal's update: Karen Hartley**

**- Japanese students visiting Peirce in April: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers have asked for students (middle school and high school) students from Japan to come and visit the day after school vacation ends. Will have assembly to celebrate their arrival. Katherine Goldman asked for allocation of funds to offer a gift to the visitors, as it is culturally appropriate. Perhaps a t-shirt to commemorate the visit? Will check with Gloria Magale to see if she has ideas on making a t-shirt.**

## **3. School newspaper followup (Jocelyn Willett)**

**-Starting a newspaper created by 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, maybe for June or October. Divide into 9 groups and each group would have a turn making the some aspect of the paper. Would come out once per month and would tie to enrichment program. Willing to be creative to fund paper (raffle idea) or could come from PTO funds. This would replace The Verse.**

#### **4. Discussion about merging enrichment committees (Jocelyn Willett)**

-Talk about merging art and science enrichment committees, as there is overlap between the two and it can be helpful in terms of scheduling. Also, there will be more play with the budget in terms of funding programs and more support around the specific activities. All activities are scheduled for the rest of the year. Separate budget line items will remain for the rest of the year.

#### **5. Grants followup (Susan Goetcheus presenting for Kristen Garrigus)**

-Need a point person for the grants. Karen will work with Janice and Susan and the school council to identify a person. Having a point person can eliminate overlap and know what resources are already in Arlington.

-Grid in grants handout (presented at Feb meeting) will need to be updated regularly.

-Ingrid or Kristen will apply to Cambridge savings bank for funding for projector/stand combo .

-AEF (Arlington Education Fund) applications due April 15<sup>th</sup>. Suggestions: movement based enrichment program for second gym period. Also, idea of puppeteer in residence that currently exists at Thompson. Artist, Rob Surette could work with the students around drawing. Kristen will reach out to Cindy Bouvier about an anti-bullying assembly that meet the state legislation requirements. Perhaps MARC program (Anti-bullying) assembly for next year.

#### **6. Urgent new business: Committee Updates**

-Fundraising update: (Susan Goetcheus for Pamela Baldwin and Sarah Forney)

-Haven't heard results from Wilson Farms shopping Day.

-Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. 9am-1pm- Electronics Recycling Day: (Martin Griesmer) Looking for volunteers for one hour time blocks, 2-3 volunteers per shift. Looking for volunteers to hang/distribute flyers around neighborhood, especially the Gilboa neighborhood. Perhaps Girl Scouts could help out. Could have sign up on Sign-Up genius to distribute workload around distributing flyers. Pamela is doing publicity through websites and e-lists. There will also be an election day bake sale, probably from 10am-2pm. Call will go out for food items and volunteers to run the sale. Announcements will go out in the daily bulletin. Susan is coordinating the effort.

-Reminder about March Madness coin challenge happening for all of March.

-Fundraising connected with plants and gardens (Martine) Flower Power will not happen this year. Trying to think of a new activity for the spring to raise money

**-Library (Mrs. T)**

**- Principal or child can read a blurb about a book over the loud speaker or alert now. Julie Hahnke picked students from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade and gave them autographed books. Some of the pieces may be published in Hutch Magazine.**

**7. Open Q&A and discussion -Chess club is the only parent run afterschool group. Protocol needed to coordinate students and for other issues related to afterschool activities not run by the school. Perhaps the student council could come up with protocol.**