

PTO Meeting Agenda- September 19th, 2011

1. Introductions of PTO officers, committee chairs, and teacher representatives

Susan Goetcheus, Janice Weinberg	Co-Presidents
Lori Pescatore	Treasurer
Andrea Canty, Cindy ReVelle	Co-Secretaries
Carl Elder, Jocelyn Willet	Enrichment
Dorothy Schuette	Science Garden
Pamela Baldwin, Sarah Forney	Fundraising
Lori Pescatore	Hospitality
Jane Torregrossa	Library Enrichments
Jessica Callaghan	Community Outreach
Marybeth Wall, Tara Lamont	Teacher Representatives

2. Overview of Committees

Report from Co-Presidents (Susan Goetcheus and Janice Weinberg)

-Volunteer forms are beginning to be returned. If you have questions about a particular volunteer activity, please speak to a member of the PTO.

-Peirce Website is up and running and good source of information and communications. Daily bulletins have been sent out each day since school has started. New information is in red. Moving away from using paper as source of communication.

-Grant came in to pay for new projector and media cart.

-Upcoming special topics for PTO meeting: special education director/ asst. director come to meeting, nurse from the Nit Wits (lice picking service) to come

in. If you have any ideas for upcoming meetings, please be in touch with co-presidents.

- Upcoming PTO meetings till December will be 3rd Monday every month.

From January to June, meetings will be the 2nd Monday every month.

Report from Social and Hospitality (Lori Pescatore)

-Upcoming event on September 30th-movie night. The movie *Despicable Me* will be shown and pizza will be served.

-Future events include: pumpkin decorating in October, Bingo night , Family Dance in the November, talent show in the winter months and Spring Fair in June.

-Volunteers needed for this committee. This committee doesn't have meetings.

Cultural and Science Enrichment (Carl Elder/Jocelyn Willet)

-This committee spends the money that the PTO raises on enrichment activities for the school. Vendors come in to administer program. Some upcoming activities include Amelia Earhart and the New England Aquarium. 11 events will be scheduled throughout the school year. Need volunteers to help administer the programs.

-Bottle rockets will be held a Saturday in October.

Science Garden (Dorothy Schuette)

-3 ½ years ago parents worked together to get donations to create garden. Programs developed for each grade. For example, a colonial garden for the 3rd grade and a butterfly garden for the 2nd graders who do a life cycle unit. This year we are working with an organic gardener who planted salad greens and various grades will harvest the plantings. Kindergarten has planted container gardens. Need parent help with the garden from season to season.

Fundraising (Sarah Forney/Pamela Baldwin)

-Lots of fun events, fundraising committee generally does not do direct sales. First fundraising event was a booth at town day which was a success. Thank you to the volunteers who helped out that day. Upcoming activities include the spring fair in June, bake sales for elections and comedy night with 50/50 raffle which could win 5000\$. Additionally, there will be a family dance in November in the gym and walk-a-thon on October 22nd. If anyone is interested in doing a fun run component for the adults on the 22nd, please let a PTO member know. Finally, will kickoff an annual drive next week. Ask for a 50\$ donation from all parents to supplement budget.

-Fundraising committee meets once a month, after school drop off. The committee needs lots of volunteers for the events and it is a good opportunity to meet people. Meeting coming up this Friday morning and welcome new members and ideas.

Library (Jane Torregrossa)

-All grades making bookmarks this week. Volunteers needed for the library. Also help needed for 5th grade newspaper, which replaces the Verse. Kids will be writing articles.

Community Outreach (Jessica Callaghan)

-Three to four charitable events throughout the year. Turkey collection will happen for Thanksgiving for families in need. Last year, did coats for kids programs with Anton Cleaners and will probably happen again this year. In the spring, collection for cradles to crayons. Book collection for bookstore More Than Words which employs vulnerable teens. Other possible event could be coin collection for Children's Hospital.

-Community Outreach also runs book fairs. Scholastic books hosts 2 fairs, one in spring and one in fall. October 17-21st will be the first fair. Library will be transformed into large book sale. Books can be purchased during school time or before or after school. Fair will also be open during the school open house on October 20th. Fair is staffed by volunteers. For first time, book fair will also be online. Additionally, wish list buckets will be created by teachers so kids/families can donate books to the classroom. Jessica would like co-chair for

book fair. Workshop this coming Wednesday morning for anyone interested in chairing event with Jessica.

Principal Report (Karen Hartley)

-School Advisory Council is a small group of teachers, parents and principal that sets goals for the year that is turned in to the superintendent. Next meeting will share goals for the year. The council can also address concerns that come up during the year. Link on the website to the advisory council and meetings are always open. One of the goals last year was to update the Peirce handbook and will be online soon. Next meeting will be tomorrow at 9AM.

-Email from Elizabeth Carr-Jones from the Arlington transportation committee (TAC). Tomorrow is a pilot flag cross walk program. Testing at three crosswalks, one being the corner of Park Ave Ext. and Morris street. If you have any questions, please talk to Karen. Peirce is looking for a safe routes coordinator for our school.

-Peirce will be piloting a math program called Symphony for the 3rd, 4th, 5th grade. Teacher training will happen this week. Symphony is individualized computer math program which tracks kids' progress. Kids can access it at home. Expect it will be implemented in the next few weeks.

-Teacher update: Christina Perkoski will be going out on maternity leave. Karen is in the process of interviewing for that position. Eva Kennedy in 3rd grade will be returning from maternity leave in November.

Budget (Lori Pescatore)

Voted on budget at the end of last year. Budget changes throughout the year. Several fundraisers hoping to bring in 18,000\$ this year. Expenses include enrichment activities, hospitality, classroom budget, etc.