

PTO Meeting

Monday, April 9, 2012

1. *Co-presidents' Remarks (Janice Weinberg and Susan Goetcheus)*

- Our school received much support from other PTOs regarding the death of Mrs. DeMella. The kids have been taking care of watering the tree that was planted.
- The art show was a success
- The chess club finished in March and hopefully will happen next year.
- Team competed at the AEF trivia bee, made it to the final round
- Read across America completed in March. Each classroom received a book about dragons for the class library.
- 4th grade will be running a fundraiser this Wednesday through Friday to support Pitching In For Kids, charity designated by Mrs. DeMella's family
- Massachusetts walk to school on May 2, 2012 and Peirce will be participating.

2. *Carl Wagner from the Ottoson Parent Advisory Council (parent of 6th grader at the Ottoson)*

- Passed out information from OPAC.
- Changes being made at Ottoson have been positive since the turnover of principals.
- Any energy being given at elementary school level PTO will be appreciated at the middle school level.
- Ottoson PTO is the youngest PTO, perhaps in the county. It is only 4 years old.
- Hoping to see representatives of our PTO at the town wide PTO meeting.
- Ottoson has several activities, April 26, open house (exploration night) at the middle school. Also, during the summer, there is a multi-day event to make middle school more approachable.
- Contact information: email address: DearOPAC@gmail.com
- question from parent: When do electives become solidified for the next year?
Recommendation is to call the school or the school department. Comment from another

parent stating that some electives (such as languages) are decided once they begin the school year. Most important is that your child is organized.

3. ***Principal's report on School Council and other activities (Karen Hartley)***

-School council did not happen this month. One thing that is ongoing discussion is regarding food for celebrations and bake sale. Discussion has been tabled, as it will be soon be regulated by the state. Other regulations that are coming: no flavored milk in the cafeteria.

-Letter will go out regarding the response after death of Mrs. DeMella. Had crisis response team come to the school from all over the state. Additionally, had police officer to handle media. Letter will be posted on the blog.

-Possibility of scholarship for the Summer Fun program in her name. Potential of renaming the Peirce scholarship to a 12th grader to the DeMella scholarship.

-Peirce PTO will match donations collected by the 4th grade fundraising event for Pitching In For Kids.

4. ***Committee reports***

-*Community Outreach (Lori Pescatore)*: Cradle to Crayons truck was filled at the CRT electronic recycling event. Done with community outreach till next year. If anyone has any ideas for next year events, please connect with Jessica Callaghan.

-*Enrichment (Carl Elder)*: Enrichment meeting will be held May 9th. Since last meeting, New England Aquarium came in. These past two weeks, High Tech/High Touch has been in the classes for the whole school. Will check in with teachers at the end of the series and will be evaluated whether to have them back next year. Only couple more events for the year.

-*Fundraising*: Wilson Farm day brought in 600\$. CRT recycling brought in 800\$. Still selling tickets for the raffle. Thanks to all who are baking/working the bake sale. Spring fair will be happening June 2, 2012. Looking for parent and teacher volunteers to work the fair. Family dance will be happening on Friday, April 27th. Book fair will be happening that night as well. Still looking for fundraising chair people for next year.

-*Hospitality (Lori Pescatore)*: Ice cream social to happen the Friday before Memorial Day weekend. Popcorn Friday will happen sometime soon. Also looking for people to take over certain events for hospitality.

-Library: (Susan Goetcheus): If you take books to the book rack, you can designate the credit to the Peirce. Andrea Canty and Amy Hoff are working with Mrs. T to organize a library enrichment activity for the grades.

-Teacher reps (Tara Lamont): No new news

-Treasurer (Lori Pescatore): Historically in the budget, costs always outweigh revenue. This year, decided to tighten budget so it would be more balanced. However, if something needed to be covered, PTO could make it happen. Example of next year budget would cutting classroom supplies for next year based on projections. Final budget will be presented in May.

5. ***Other business***

-Peirce will be a pilot program for Math enrichment program. We are applying for a grant to fund program for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, as well as potentially receive Title 1 funding. PTO could contribute as well. Program would teach about math differentiation.

-Fit Kids by Reebok, it is a fitness program that meets before school and is run by parent volunteers. Is currently happening at Dallin. Meets 45 minutes before school starts and meets twice a week. Will invite Dallin parents who run the program to our PTO meeting.

-Still looking for a co-president to work with Susan for next year.