

PTO Meeting
Monday, May 14, 2012

Attendees: Susan Goetcheus, Janice Weinberg, Mary Beth Wall, Lori Pescatore, Sarah Forney, Suvi Totterman, Cate Oranchak, Pamela Baldwin, Dorothy Schuette, Carl Elder, Cindy ReVelle

1) Co-Presidents Remarks (Janice Weinberg, Susan Goetcheus)

- International Night and Spring Dance were fabulous.
- Book fair did very well
- Massachusetts Walk to School Day was exciting. Will follow up with home and in-school surveys re: safety around the schools. International Walk to School Day is in October.
- Math differentiation grant submitted to AEF was funded at \$3,000.
- Parents have volunteered for many of the hospitality events: Pumpkin Carving, Anne Dixon; Coffees, Lauren Nufer and Cheryl Banks; Popcorn Fridays, Sarah Forney; Holiday Cookie Decorating, Rachel Westover; Movie Night, Suvi Totterman and Cate Oranchak

2) Advisory Council report (Cate Oranchak)

- Council heard about issue of birthday celebrations and food and was going to start developing a policy that addressed equity and allergies, however the town is going to issue a district-wide school policy in 2013 that essentially says “no food.”

3) Review/update of PTO bylaws (Susan Goetcheus)

- PTO bylaws need to be updated.
- Janice and Susan will work on these, and to make it a committee needed a third person – Carl Elder will join them. Voted and approved. Will vote on new bylaws in June.

4) Election of PTO officers for the 2012-2013 school year

Voted and approved slate of officers: Susan Goetcheus, President; Amy Cooper, Vice President, Lori Pescatore, Treasurer, Cindy ReVelle and Emily Aiken Co-secretaries.

5) Advisory Committee plans for playground improvements(Cate Oranchak)

- Committee considered several issues with play areas and decided to address soil erosion between back of school and blacktop
- Options discussed include a 2-foot retaining wall.
- Cate Oranchak and Charlie Radoslovich had meeting at Parks and Recreation to learn what the town can do and when.
- This project will be on the agenda for a Parks and Recreation meeting/hearing 6/12.
- Before this meeting, contractors will be pricing three options.
- Any Peirce families involved in landscaping (site construction) could be considered.
- Parks and Recreation staff advised that Peirce consider fundraising to contribute to this project, given the competing budget demands on Parks and Recreation.
- Attendees discussed desire for town to pay for any safety or compliance-related work. Also discussed possibility of a fund-raiser for one important thing, after the costs are known.
- Fundraiser could potentially be tied to a new tile wall inside the building (families could purchase tiles.)

6) Dates of events for the 2012-2013 school year

The following dates are set or will be soon:

9/15 Town Day

10/4 Curriculum Night

10/27 Fun Run/Walkathon

11/6 Election Day Bake Sale (Professional Day)

11/17 Holiday Craft Fair

TBD Fall Family Dance

??? Fall Bookfair

Jan Open House

TBD in March Comedy Night

7) Fundraising/budget discussion (Lori Pescatore, Pamela Baldwin)

- Budget

- Attendees reviewed budget for next year.

- New items include a coin challenge to go with the book fair and the holiday craft fair along with a silent auction (projected to raise \$2K).

- To be conservative and have a realistic budget, have cut in areas including enrichment, technology, and principal's discretionary fund.

- Current budget includes a shortfall of about \$5K, but this shortfall doesn't historically occur -- over the course of each year there is typically less spending than budgeted and higher than budgeted revenue from certain events. Rarely have to dip into reserves (money market account).

- Budget approved unanimously.

- Next year's fundraising

o Lori will coordinate (vs. chair)

o Pamela will do communications/advertising

o Need one more big event. Feel free to recruit someone.

o Dana Hagenbuch has agreed to work on the annual drive. She will coordinate that. There could be an online component, whether it is the communication or the actual payment option.

9) Other business and announcements

- Enrichment Committee held good meeting, next meeting will be 6/6.

- Spring Fair is June 2.

- June 8 is PTO volunteer breakfast at 7:30 in cafeteria.

- June PTO Meeting moved to 6/4.

- Dorothy Schuette is researching memorial plaque to go by the tree planted for Ms. DeMella. Money can be donated by parents and teachers through PTO. Dorothy will continue to look into vendors, and will show the selection to the teachers.