

PTO Meeting
9/18/12

1) Welcome and President/Vice President's remarks (Susan Goetcheus and Amy Cooper)

- Thanks to volunteers:
- o Town Day was a great success – about \$800 was raised. Thank you to organizers Amy Elder and Andrea Canty, and all of the volunteers.
- o New Peirce T-Shirts are here and available at pickup and dropoff from Sarah Forney. Thanks to Darren Buck for designing them.
- o Thanks to Lori Pescatore and the Hospitality Committee for the coffee after drop off on the first-day of school.
- o Thanks to Krissie Delaney for the teacher photo board at the main entrance.
- o Thanks to Dorothy Schuette and others on the Landscaping Committee and Advisory Council for cleanup on Kindergarten playground -- and the great new retaining wall on the back playground.

2) Principal's remarks (Karen Hartley)

- Introduction of teacher reps Alicia Coletti and Marybeth Wall (Alicia Coletti and Daniella Hurley attended this meeting.)
- Introduction of new school psychologist Alison Caruso. Ms Caruso said she is splitting her time between Peirce and Brackett. She is excited to be at Peirce and available via email or at Peirce (two days per week).
- Peirce also has a social worker Deb Murray. She and the new assistant superintendent Laura Chesson will come to a future meeting.
- Review of new nutrition policy (Massachusetts Nutrition Standards for Competitive Food and Beverages in Public Schools), which went to effect 8/1.
Some notes:
 - o New policy comes from Massachusetts Legislation and affects food at school outside of lunch.
 - o Standards were developed in response to the obesity epidemic, not allergies.
 - o Food affected includes food sold or provided at school 30 minutes before or 30 minutes after school ends, as well as snack time.
 - o A list for acceptable foods is at www.johnstalkerinstitute.org/alist/.
 - o Includes recommendations to create and support a healthy environment.
 - o PTO bake sale on Election Day this year won't be affected because it's not a school Day.

3) Introduction of PTO officers and chairs

- Susan Goetcheus (President, Safe Routes)
- o PTO president and vice president serve as conduits between parents and administration

- To reach PTO officers: email (all PTO officers are listed with emails on the website), leave mail in the office PTO mailbox, or catch Amy and Susan at dropoff
- Safe Routes encourages walking and biking to school. Want to produce a parking map for streets around the school.
- Emily Aiken, Cindy ReVelle (Co-Secretaries)
 - Notes available on website about a week after each meeting
- Lori Pescatore (Treasurer; Fundraising; Hospitality)
 - This year Peirce families will be able to make donations via PayPal link on the Peirce website.
 - Fundraising this year will include a holiday craft fair. Next Thursday (9/27) at 6:30 pm there will be a fundraising party at Lori's house to gather new ideas and new people.
 - Hospitality events include Popcorn Fridays, Movie Night, Coffees, Bingo, Ice Cream Socials, and Pumpkin Decorating.
- Jessica Callahan (Community Outreach)
 - Jessica began as the liaison for different requests coming into the school. She provides coordination and ideas such as a book drive and coat drive. Lori does a turkey drive at Thanksgiving and stockings for kids in need. Jessica welcomes new ideas.
 - Jessica runs the Book Fair that happens twice a year. This fall it will be 10/12 through 10/18.
- Carl Elder and Jocelyn Willett (Enrichment)
 - Objective is to bring in vendors to provide math, science and cultural enrichment for all the grades.
 - Has included Simply Circus, Bottle Rockets, etc.
 - Have 14 events planned for this year. Have ideas and are looking for volunteers to help organize and host events at the schools.
- Dorothy Schuette (Science Garden and Landscaping)
 - Have help from many parents. Do cleanup around the grounds.
 - Maintain and encourage use of Science Garden in the front of the school outside the library. It is 4 raised beds and it was created 5 years ago by many families at the school. It's a great place for kids to have some plant sciences. Teachers may use it.
- Jane Torregrossa (Mrs. T.) (Library Enrichment)
 - This year 3, 4,5 are making individual books and K, 1, 2 are making class books.
 - Have an author coming at the end of the month for grades 3-5.
 - Volunteer opportunities: Library schedule has holes in it. Will need help when it is time to put the books together.
- Alicia Coletti and Marybeth Wall (Teacher representatives)
 - Ms Coletti asked whether there are funds for students who need help with school supplies. There is a fund for this under Family/Student Support.
 - Ms Coletti mentioned concern about teachers not being able to get out of their parking spaces on half days, when they often need to quickly

reach other elementary schools. Ms. Hartley requested that parents waiting to pick up not leave their cars even just for a moment.

- Krissy Delaney and Jane Torregrossa (5th grade newsletter)
 - o Teacher ideas are welcome -- submit to Mrs. T.

4) **Other business and announcements**

- Susan mentioned that in addition to committee membership, many event organizers use Sign Up Genius to request volunteers for just an hour or so.
- 10th anniversary of Peirce building (may also be 75th anniversary of school): Joy Spadafora may work on an event.
- \$200 line item for the Science Garden for supplies and equipment - Motion made and approved.
- Quick overview of budget. Lori is available to answer questions.
- PTO Directory:
 - o Want to have a more cost-effective way to do the PTO directories. They are about \$300. Try to produce directories toward the end of October.
 - o Online option – Parent discussion at this meeting showed there are privacy concerns with putting the directory online unless it can be protected.
- Teachers do a “sunshine fund” to send flowers or food when a staff member experiences hardship. Need recommendations for local vendor(s).

5) **Questions**

- Parent asked if there will be a Peirce Bulletin again and yes there will be one.
- Dorothy thanked Lalicata Landscaping for donating the mulch for the new planting area near the kindergarten playground.

6) **Breakout sessions with committee chairs**

Upcoming dates:

Friday, September 28	Movie Night
Thursday, October 4	Curriculum Night
Friday, October 12	Family dance; Book Fair begins
Monday, October 22	PTO meeting
Saturday, October 27	Walkathon
Saturday, November 17	Holiday craft fair