

- 1) Welcome and President's Remarks (Susan Goetcheus)
  - a. Reminder: Sign up for parent teacher conferences
  - b. Thanks to everyone involved in the recent events including walkathon, bottle rockets, presidential election bake sale.
  - c. PTO received thank you notes from Parent Education Forum committee for contributions for their forums, and from the third grade after their trip to Plimoth Plantation.
- 2) Margaret Thomas, METCO Director, Arlington Schools
  - a. Margaret is starting a "Family Friends" program like the one that used to be called "Host Families."
  - b. Will allow Arlington Families to host METCO students for playdates and be the emergency contact, the local home base that allows students in METCO program to participate in activities after hours, for example, the middle school dance.
  - c. Boston school parents would like the program to go both ways, where Arlington students go to their houses, so that they can reciprocate and introduce students to their homes and their community
  - d. There is a parent coordinator who works at Hardy and is also a METCO parent.
  - e. Let Margaret know how we can support her, and if someone is interested in being a point person to help her bridge, may be based on a kids' friendship. Can give Susan or Karen your name if you are interested.
  - f. Margaret is also thinking about socials. There was a suggestion for a family get-together at the Children's Museum
  - g. General discussion about METCO:
    - i. We have nine students in the METCO program.
    - ii. Arlington Superintendent tells METCO the spaces and they match.
    - iii. 32 towns participate in this type of program.
    - iv. Can find Margaret on the high school web page; her email address is [mthomas@arlington.k12.ma.us](mailto:mthomas@arlington.k12.ma.us).
- 3) Introduction to the Advisory Council (Cate Oranchak)
  - a. Required that all Mass. schools have this group – Principal plus elected teacher and parent reps (and in some schools, community reps).
  - b. Goal is to look at educational and social/emotional needs of students, whereas the PTO's goal is enrichment and the fundraising to support this.
  - c. We have two teacher reps and three parent reps. Teacher reps are Ms Dooley and Ms Power. Parent reps are Cate, Charlie Radoslovich, and Lisa Carlson-Hill.
  - d. The teachers and the parents have a 2-year commitment and meet monthly.
  - e. There are open meetings, generally the second Monday of month at 2:30 in the principal's area.
  - f. Make goals for the year. This year there are three main goals, aligned with the district's goals.
    1. Student achievement in math – Karen will present this at our next PTO meeting.
    2. Communication – Focus is on communicating between home and school – want to do a survey about what people want, e.g., from weekly memo.
    3. Technology – Goal is to keep current as much as budget allows.
  - g. Cate provided a handout on past and current goals. Some outcomes: revival of the "Peirce pride" program, number line painted on blacktop, books for Open Circle, substitute folders (guides), screentime philosophy.
  - h. Very productive organization and will be looking for members for next year
  - i. For more info: Peirce website under "School Groups," Peirce Guide (PDF on Peirce website under "School Info"), Arlington Public Schools Elementary Handbook, pp. 37-8. Massachusetts State Law, Chapter 71, Section 59C.
- 4) Principal's remarks
  - a. We are thrilled to have Carol Findell here as a math mentor. She will be in for two half days each week to coach teachers. She also may teach. She has said our staff are very receptive.
  - b. Elementary School Principals will present "school improvement goals" to School Committee on 12/6. For example, last year they requested a social worker and got this.

## 5) Committee Updates

- a. Treasurer; Fundraising; Hospitality (Lori Pescatore) –
  - i. Fundraising: Doing OK. Bake sale raised \$2K, walkathon was a little short. Hope for \$2K from Peirce craft fair. Annual fund drive is going well, much better than last year. We are fine on the expense side as nothing unexpected has come up.
  - ii. Hospitality – Anne Dixon did pumpkin decorating this year. Next will be cookie decorating and stocking stuffing 12/14. Reminder for Turkey donations.
- b. Community Outreach (Jessica Callaghan): Are collecting coats for kids and adults.
- c. Enrichment (Carl Elder, Jocelyn Willet): Busily planning enrichment events including: Teepee, martial arts and anti-bullying presentation, photography workshop for K and first grade, and Museum of Science presentation.
- d. Library Enrichment (Jane Torregrossa): Books are going well.
- e. Safe Routes (Susan Goetcheus): Safe Routes group has been promoting Walk to School Wednesday on the first Wed of each month. Looking for more volunteers.
- f. Teachers representatives (Daniela Hurley, Alicia Coletti): One request -- they would like better paper cutters. Would like to have two. PTO will purchase three.

## Upcoming dates

Saturday, November 17

Holiday Craft Fair/Pie Sale/Photo Booth 10-2

Wednesday, November 21

Noon dismissal for Thanksgiving break – No lunch

Nov 29/Dec 3/Dec 6

Teacher conferences – 11:15 AM release

Tuesday, December 11

PTO Meeting 6:30 pm