

PTO Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 7, 2013

- 1) Welcome and President's/Vice President's remarks (Susan Goetcheus/Amy Cooper)
 - a. The teacher representatives are absent this week.
 - b. There was a request to purchase staples for the copiers; however Pat Costa ordered the staples instead, so there is no need for the PTO to buy them. Karen is on the copier committee. She notes that the copiers we have are not for constant use. Every school needs at least one heavy-duty constant-use copier.
 - c. Recent and Upcoming Events:
 - The Talent Show in January was lots of fun.
 - No numbers yet on the proceeds from our Wilson Farm shopping day.
 - Open House was a success and the format worked very well – had a nice social feel and the “10 years” themed projects were great. It was very crowded in the cafeteria, however. In the future, it might be better to start in the gym with the display of class projects, followed by snacks in the cafeteria.
 - The Blue Jean Drive is ongoing, as is the Food Drive for the 100th day of school. (100th Day now falls after break, thanks to snow days. June 26 is currently our last day of school.)
 - At next month’s PTO meeting, Assistant Superintendent Laura Chesson will talk about the new Common Core requirements.
 - Read Across America starts in March.
- 2) Principal’s remarks (Karen Hartley)
 - a. Dan Black at ACMI (Arlington Community Media, Inc.) is helping us make our own TV show, something like Reading Rainbow, using the books the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders have written in Library. Starting with the 5th grade, he will scan each book and have the author read it aloud. (The children’s names and faces will not be used on TV – only their voices reading along with the book images.) Several of these readings will be presented in each 30 minute episode. Arlington High School students will do the editing. Karen will send out a blurb about the show. Kids will need a permission slip to participate.

- b. Arlington received a grant to further enhance our counseling services, thanks to Cindy Bouvier, APS Health and Wellness Coordinator. Project S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (Schools Uniting and Coordinating Counseling in Elementary School Settings) seeks “to plan, implement, coordinate, expand, and integrate school based counseling and support services in the eight elementary schools.” It will increase mental health staff and decrease student disciplinary referrals through a variety of planned counseling activities and a focus on character and civic virtues.

3) Arlington Education Foundation activities (Ingrid Gallagher)

- a. Ingrid Gallagher is our new representative to AEF. AEF wants to involve schools in the grant process and be more of a resource for them. Currently there is a push for the next grant cycle. The deadline is April 15. Ingrid is here to meet with teachers and help them craft ideas that are fundable. She can give examples of and hints for successful proposals.
- b. The AEF Trivia Bee is March 24. It’s time to get teams together. It would be great if there were a teacher team from each school. The registration deadline is March 15. It’s a fun event. Ingrid will forward us the information.
- c. The AEF website is packed with information on the Trivia Bee, grants, profiles of grants awarded in the past, etc. Susan will make sure there is a link to AEF on the Peirce website.

4) Read Across America reading challenge (Susan Goetcheus)

Dorothy Schuette is organizing our March Read Across America challenge. This year’s theme is “explore the world through books.” The kids fill out a slip for each book they read or have read to them. The goal is to have the slips span the library bookshelves. New this year is a secondary challenge to encourage nonfiction reading (cf. the new Common Core focus on nonfiction). Each student gets a nonfiction reader sheet with categories (history, science, etc.) and suggested books. The goal is for each student to read one book per category – perhaps a book they would not normally choose. The grade with highest participation in the nonfiction challenge will win something.

5) Committee and teacher representative updates

- a. No teacher updates.
- b. Next month, we will discuss the open PTO positions for next year, including co-president, co-secretary, and co-chair of the Enrichment Committee. We will have a handout listing the open positions and their responsibilities. Also, Lori wants to continue to farm out more individual events. (Note, Carl has 1-page digital files of instructions on how to do certain events.)
- c. We will have our CRT recycling on Election Day, April 6, and do Cradles to Crayons collection at the same time.
- d. Carl's Enrichment Committee report
 - Photography program by EMO (Elizabeth Orrell)
 - Drum guy assembly on March 1
 - Museum of Science and Audubon programming set up
 - Bubbles program for Kindergarten
 - Free Disney/NSTAR energy conservation program
- e. Susan volunteers to take over composition of the Weekly Bulletin for Pat.

6) Questions

Upcoming dates:

Tuesday, February 12	Early release (1 PM)
Thursday, February 14	4th Grade Living Persons Museum (8:30 AM)
Friday, February 15	Popcorn Friday (2:15 PM)
Monday, February 18	Vacation week
Friday, March 1	Bingo Night (6:30 PM)
Tuesday, March 5	Early release (1 PM)
Wednesday, March 6	Walk to School Wednesday

Tuesday, March 12

PTO Meeting (6:30 PM)

Special guest: Asst. Superintendent Laura Chesson