

PTO Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 11, 2013

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

**a. Thanks to volunteers**

- The Art Show was excellent. Emo (Elizabeth Orrell) and Emily Crandall are on for next year as well.
- Castle of Chess held its awards ceremony last month. They also had a great showing at the Rhode Island Scholastic Chess Championship. The team placed 4th in the K-4 division, and two kids shared 6th place as individuals. The club's successes were mentioned in the Superintendent's March Newsletter. Note, Brian Epstein is looking for a volunteer to take over the running of the program. He would like to transition next year.
- Thanks to Dorothy Schuette and others, Recycling/Donation Day was very successful (if cold). Traffic was steady, even though Dallin and the Department of Public Works have spring recycling days as well. Peirce's Community Outreach activities will also be recognized in an upcoming Superintendent's Newsletter.

**b. Volunteers needed**

Volunteers are needed for the Spring Book Fair. A link to SignUp Genius is on the Peirce website. (The Family Dance has enough volunteers already.)

**c. Upcoming events**

- We will have a Flash Mob on the big playground the morning of Friday, April 26 to advertise the Family Dance.
- Wednesday, May 1 is Massachusetts Walk to School Day, a bigger event than our usual monthly Walk to School Days, with musicians on the playground, some lead-up activities on Monday and Tuesday, motivational pencils from Oriental Trading, etc.

**d. Request for \$55 for Massachusetts Walk to School event**

- Lori Pescatore will take it out of the Social/Hospitality budget.

**e. News from principal (Karen Hartley)**

- Karen is at the Arlington Elementary School Math Night. At the next PTO meeting she will tell us about it.
- Those with incoming kindergartners should register soon. Kids in the buffer zones are distributed according to how many registrations the schools have so far, and these placements will be made soon. The more early registrations we have, the lower our overall numbers will be.
- Sara Ronayne's SLC (Supported Learning Center) class is going back to Stratton next year. Peirce will be keeping five special education teachers next year, however the Inclusion Program is transitioning. Eventually we will have one special education teacher for grades 1-2, and another for grades 3-5.

## **2) Open positions for next year**

- a. We need people for Co-president, Co-secretary, Fundraising, Enrichment, Hospitality, and Safe Routes. We will have nominations by e-mail through Friday, April 26, and then have voting online until just before our May meeting. A special notice will be sent out the Monday after vacation, as waiting for Wednesday's Bulletin would be too late.
- b. The Safe Routes Committee is part of the MA Safe Routes to School Program. It encourages walking to school and addresses traffic safety issues. Parking and traffic flow, especially on Newland Rd., is still a major problem for us. The police have been reluctant to ticket. Parents need to be made aware of the safety issues – that emergency vehicles would not be able to access the school. Suggestions were made to put out cones again; have students "ticket" the parked cars; and make parents aware of better parking spaces on neighboring streets. Other suggestions: to make walking groups ("busses") from the different Peirce neighborhoods a more regular thing; to have a Bike to School Day; and to move the bike rack from its current location on the sidewalk, to the unused space to the right of the front circle.

## **3) Committee and teacher representative updates**

- a. Enrichment
  - Carl Elder is also at Math Night. He is looking for a replacement for next year too.
  - The Museum of Science and Mass Audubon are scheduled to come in.
  - Jocelyn Willett will be attending a faculty meeting to find out what types of enrichment the teachers like/want. Mrs. Hurley notes it would be better if an online survey were sent out before the busy end-of-year time. The teachers want to know how to go about requesting or setting up programs they might be interested in.
- b. Hospitality/Social/Fundraising (Lori Pescatore)
  - We'll have an Ice Cream Social the Friday before Memorial Day. Suggestion that we give smaller servings to avoid waste, and move the trash barrels to more prominent locations.
  - June 1 is the Spring Fair.
  - A count of the Coin Challenge collection so far will be available Monday after vacation, to encourage the kids.
- c. Landscaping and Science Garden (Dorothy Schuette)
  - Fifth graders are having a grounds cleanup right after Early Release on April 30. They will be earning money for their graduation: \$10 per kid from the PTO. Parents are welcome too, but there will be a regular, adult cleanup scheduled for later.
  - The grades will have their usual spring programs, e.g., kindergartners will be planting the containers out front.
- d. Teacher representative (Daniela Hurley)

Mrs. Hurley had no news from the teachers.

## **4) Budget review (Lori Pescatore)**

- a. A copy of the budget was distributed.
  - Recycling Day earned \$1200.
  - We're still waiting to see what we make on the Book Fair, Coin Challenge, and Spring Fair.
  - T-shirts sales are still down. They will be available at the Spring Fair.
- b. Susan notes that we may not need some of the budgeted items: e.g., further Open Circle teacher training won't be needed. There was also a question about the \$2000 allotted for a math program – what math program?
- c. The PTO is purchasing a laptop which will store the 5th grade graduation slides, meeting notes, documentation, treasury stuff, the school directory, etc. all in one place.
- d. We will be skipping Karaoke Night and will instead have a Pub Trivia Night with a silent auction at the Sons of Italy. Lori likes the personal nature of our silent auction items, e.g., a home cooked dinner for 30 or student art. Susan noted that while the Brackett June Fair raises some \$30,000, drawing people from all over Arlington, our Peirce Spring Fair is more for the Peirce community. The community-building aspect of our fundraisers is a positive.
- e. A Fundraising Coordinator is needed for next year too. The volunteers are already lined up for the different events; it's just a matter of coordination. Again, the issue of recruiting: "If you haven't volunteered for an event yet..." We need to communicate a urgency and let parents know what will be lost without their participation.

## 5) Questions

### Upcoming dates:

Monday, April 15 - Friday, April 19	No school
Thursday, April 25	Incoming Kindergarten Info Night (6:30-7:30 PM)
Friday, April 26	Book Fair (6:30-8:00 PM) Family Dance (7:00-8:30 PM)
Monday, April 29 - Thursday, May 2	Book Fair
Tuesday, April 30	Early Release (1 PM) 5th Grade Grounds Cleanup (1:00-2:30 PM)
Wednesday, May 1	MA Walk to School Day