

**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 9, 2013**

**1. Co-Presidents Greeting (Amy Cooper & Elizabeth (Emo) Orrell)**

- Thank you to Cate and Laura for all of their work on a very successful Movie Night.
- Thank you to Mary Alice and Flynn for all of their work on International Walk to School Day. Stickers were given to children who walked. There was live, musical (accordion) entertainment. Children who live too far away to walk could run a lap around the playground to earn a sticker.

**2. Principal Remarks (Karen Hartley)**

- Due to state mandate, all teachers with ELL (English Language Learners) students must complete training. The teachers are taking an intensive, Master's level course which meets on Thursdays and Saturdays, on top of their teaching. More information about the mandate and the course can be found in the blog: <http://peirceschool.info/2013/10/07/retell-for-teachers/>.
- Michael Thompson, author of the book, *Best Friends, Worst Enemies* will be giving a parent forum on October 21 at 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. Parents can send questions ahead of time. He will also be giving a presentation to the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and he will be available to the teachers to discuss individual cases. The visit is being made possible by a grant.
- Karen asked the Enrichment Committee about a potential author's visit. A British children's author gives a 4-day workshop on writing nonfiction. The workshop could be beneficial since writing nonfiction is part of the core curriculum, but it is very expensive (\$4,000). Questions were raised as to whether the program could be shorter, targeted to the higher grades, or shared among other schools as ways to reduce the cost. Jocelyn will contact the author to get more information.

**3. Committee Updates**

• **Treasurer (Lori Pescatore)**

- Annual Drive letter has gone out, and the drive is going okay so far, but with no major fundraiser coming up, Lori is going to start pushing the annual drive more. Karen will send an email reminder out. Suggestions were made to push the company matches, have a more prominent link to Paypal, add to the weekly to-do list, and to give people an envelope or a part of the form to tear off and return. The flyer looks great!
- No date has been set for the fundraiser meeting
- Lori asked how much money is needed for Open Circle training. Ms. Coletti said that she thinks everyone is trained. Karen will verify.

• **Fundraising (Lori Pescatore)**

- Family Dance: Needs volunteers. Iris McNulty is running the event.
- Spring Dance: Need someone to run
- Craft Fair: Slow and steady—4 tables sold so far. There will be hot dogs and chili dogs sold. Emo will be doing the photo booth again this year. No silent auction this year.

- Trivia Night: There is a Target gift card for a prize (thanks to Chrissy). Each class will donate a basket to auction/sell.
- The question was raised as to whether to have a bake sale at the special election. The decision was made not to since there was not expected to be a big turnout. Suggestion was made to sell other baked goods in addition to pies at the craft fair.
- The question was raised about having a silent auction. An auction is a great idea, but we would need someone to run it and we would need more volunteers. Additionally, local businesses are already being asked for many donations. Suggestion was made to auction off goods or services donated by families.

**Community Outreach—Jessica Callaghan**

- Coats for kids—will start after the book fair
- Book fair—will start at the Family Dance and go through the following Thursday. This year, we will be having a parents-only time to shop. Jessica went to a workshop to learn how to increase sales. Suggestion was made to ask Whole Foods to donate bagels. Generally, people already are buying books. Since the book fair is the week of science camp, 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be able to come in early.

**Hospitality—Emo speaking for Erin Whalen**

- Thanks again for successful movie night
- Volunteers are needed for Pumpkin Decorating—Anne Dixon is running and she will set up a sign-up
- Erin is working on a new binder with information about each event
- Coffee will be provided for the presentation on 10/21
- The question was raised as to whether Movie Night should be a fundraiser. The decision was that this event is a fun way to start the year off, and it is nice to have it as a hospitality event.

**Enrichment—Carl Elder, Jocelyn Willett, Sherri Bulmer**

- Several events are already scheduled for this year:
  - Bottle Rockets 10/26
  - Helen Keller presentation 10/30, grades 2-5
  - Rob Surrett—artist—all-school assembly in December
  - Wingmasters Owl Program
  - New England Aquarium, grades K-2
  - Building Bridges—grade 2—March
- Event Schedule is heavier toward the end of the year
- Jocelyn is working on a Karate/Japan presentation which would probably be donated

**Library Enrichment—Jane Torregrossa was absent**

- There seem to be enough volunteers

**Safe Routes—Flynn Monks**

- Walk to School Day went well. Teachers were given packets with prizes to distribute
- There will be a Walk to School Day each month

- Students will get Travel Tickets they can fill out each time they walk, and they can get a prize such as a water bottle (from Safe Routes program)
- Students who live too far away to walk can run laps around the school to earn the prizes. Jocelyn offered to help with this.

**Landscaping—Dorothy Schuette was absent**

- Grounds Clean-Up will most likely be the first week of November; either Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.

**Teacher representatives—Alicia Coletti**

- The iPads are great tools and are being utilized in all of the classrooms. Request for one account that all teachers could use when downloading apps. Would need a credit card for the account even though only free apps are used. Decision was made to use PTO credit card and a \$20 budget in case there are better apps that aren't free. One download can be used for the whole cart of iPads. Ms. Coletti will set up a gmail account and make a folder for each grade.

**Proposed adoption of planter on Park Ave.—Lori Pescatore**

The proposal passed. There will be a sign in the planter saying that it is maintained by the Peirce School PTO. The planter is free. The PTO would pay for any plants added, although there are already some plants in there. It will need to be watered.

**School Pictures--Amy & Emo**

The current contract has ended. Emo has offered to do the school pictures going forward. There will be more flexibility with the packages; it will be a bigger fundraiser for the school; and it will simplify the process. Details to be worked out.

**Jocelyn Willet** brought up a children's volunteering program, Catching Joy, that has volunteer opportunities for children. This is a great concept and we could potentially do something like this after school. Jessica said she would be interested in organizing.

Next PTO meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in November

**Upcoming Dates:**

\*\* Date still needed for International Night (Probably in April) Dorothy will run the event.

Mon., Oct. 14—No School; Mrs. T's closed

Fri., Oct. 18—Family Dance/Book Fair kick-off (Book Fair through 10/24)

Fri., Oct. 25—Pumpkin Decorating 2:15 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 26—Bottle Rockets 2:00 p.m.

Mon., Nov. 11—No School

Sat., Nov. 16—Craft Fair

Fri., Dec. 13—Cookie Decorating 2:15 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 10—Talent Show 6:30 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 15—Math Night/Open House 6:00 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 7—Pub Trivia Night 7:00 p.m.  
Fri., Mar. 7—Bingo Night 7:00 p.m.  
Fri., Mar 21 Community Art Show 5:00 p.m.