

PTO Meeting  
April, 2014

Co-presidents' greeting

- a. Special thanks for Brian Epstein for 4 years of Chess Club leadership
- b. Special thanks also to Dorothy Schuette for managing grounds clean-up

Susan G. Flocking flamingos PTO fundraiser—For a donation, people will be able to have a flock of flamingoes placed on a residential front yard in the Peirce district. A sign will be put up—“you’ve been flocked”. Proposal: \$10. Flamingoes will be placed on the lawn early in the morning and removed in the evening. It will be done during the month of May skipping weekends. Susan will be looking for help flocking and to be on call for “deflocking”. (People can call if they want the flamingoes removed).

What to do if many orders received? Options: go into June, do more than one flock, etc. Susan will check the PTO mailbox daily, schedule the flocking, and forward the check to Lori for processing. It was recommended that community safety be called in advance to let them know about the fundraiser.

Charlotte Milan Town/schools recycling coordinator: Overview of what other schools are doing and how we can improve our efforts at Peirce.

Charlotte talked about ways she can support recycling efforts at Peirce.

- Can help with equipment, printed material, spring clean-up, electronics recycling fundraiser, presentations to classroom,
- Can address lessons different grades are doing (composting, etc.),

Suggests waste audit in cafeteria—1 lunch period. Kids sort out different waste, class or club, etc. can use the numbers for different types of learning. This activity would need parent volunteers, but no effort would be required from teachers

There is recycling bin in the teacher lounge, printed info with staff and student visuals.

Left brochures, handouts

Town’s recycling program may be different from teachers’ towns—not all surrounding towns have mandatory recycling.

In the past, Peirce hosted JRM do a recycling presentation in library—only school to present to all grades

Issue brought up: Trays used for lunches—We are currently using Styrofoam trays,

Intermediate steps—1. Dump-off stations for drinks—so that waste doesn’t get transported to N. Andover to be burned

2. Dump trash and stack trays—reduces volume of trash, # of plastic bags, trips to dumpster, empty dumpster

3. Compostable trays—if school has a compost program, there is a good argument to use these trays. But they are 3X more expensive and are also heavier.

4. Reusable trays—not many schools use. Staff costs to wash.

If we are interested, Charlotte will support us in starting compost program. Can do it in small ways, ex. 1 grade level.

Food services program is self-sustaining entity, and it doesn’t receive \$ from the school. The town pays for waste. (We wouldn’t get a discount on compostable trays if we had a compost program). If all schools switch to compostable trays, there is the potential for lunch prices to rise.

Amy Cooper and Laura Goldstein are going to work with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders to get programs going  
There was a suggestion to add more recycling education in the recycling part of the art show.

#### Principal's Remarks:

The kindergarten teachers were wondering about caps and gowns for Kindergarten graduation that they would use every year (Cost: \$150).

--A suggestion was made to use a sash. There is a concern about hats and lice. The event is getting bigger every year, and there seems to be pressure from the parents to do more for kindergarten graduation.

--A suggestion was to make hats and to have the kindergarten parents help out with this event, possibly making hats.

Judd Peirce has been invited to come future PTO meeting

#### Lori P (Absent)

May 23<sup>rd</sup> is the tentative date for the ice cream social.

Spring Dance coming up—on target

Book fair—on target

Lori wants to step away as fundraising chair (will still run craft, spring, and trivia)

Permits: There has been some trouble/confusion with permits. Permits should not be filled out for before 6:30 p.m. (3 hour minimum) Karen will follow up and look into it to clarify the rules.

Need protocol and written rules that are kept with the permits to simplify the procedure.

It was pointed out that the advisory board made documents of how to put on an event at Peirce.

This information is now on the website. It was suggested that it should be part of president packet. Presidents could then give out to committee members.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation

--Amy raised a concern that has been brought up with 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. In past, graduation has been in the evening. This year, it will be in the afternoon because of contracts. 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents want to have party at the sons of Italy. They had a fundraiser at the art show to raise \$ for this event. Question brought up that this is different so budget should be capped. Amy proposed that it should be done as in past—with fluid budget

--Emo went over the numbers for the last 3 years for graduation: cost/student 2010 \$42/student for everything

2011 \$41/ student

2012 \$100/student. Switch from Swifty to another vendor explains the price increase (despite it being a smaller class)

This year, the cost would be \$1800/\$1900 if keeping to \$40/person. There are more kids this year.

Each class has raised about \$800, sometimes more, sometimes less

Emo suggests figuring out what PTO should spend per kid. If it is above that, maybe \$ could come from other fundraising

The current budget is \$700, needs to be brought up to at least \$1500 (bare minimum), possibly before fundraising, and fundraising would bring back down

Amy: motion to not put a harsh cap on what is spent by the PTO. Open to being fluid as in the past. Motion seconded and passed.

It was asked what oversight the PTO has over planning committee for spending.

The response was that there was no oversight—the planning committee is given a budget

Question: Why is PTO paying for graduation?—Money could be used for supporting enrichment and teachers.

Responses: The money is like a gift to the 5<sup>th</sup> grades--no strings attached

Also, it is a way to thank the parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grades for all of their involvement.

5<sup>th</sup> graders have always done fundraising to supplement the budget.

Other ideas: Models of having families pay, gift given to class—parents handle the funds

Maybe there should be a token gift or a number per student rather than a flat number. Memory book is the most expensive item—maybe parents could buy memory book. Take into account what teachers want to do with the students the last week—have a conversation with the teacher whether they would rather use money for a class activity.

With the timing of graduation being moved this may be a good time to reassess.

There needs to be a clear idea going forward whether the funds can be discretionary—once solid number is arrived at. (even if # is 0).

How to proceed with this year?

Amy: proposes \$50/kid as a gift. PTO will give contribution to bring the budget to \$2500 (\$50/kid).

(generally, each class raises approx. \$800)

Motion: raise the line item from \$700 to \$1340 (\$50/head) for this one year only. Subject to be reassessed next year. Firsted, seconded, voted through, nobody was opposed.

May 10<sup>th</sup>--Cradles to Crayons at Recycling, More Than words, 5<sup>th</sup> grade carwash. Event will be outside—building not open. Someone will need to get the key from Frank to get access to the hose. Prices are on the website. Thanks to Susan for this.

--Planter box—starting to have plumage

Dorothy

--commend 5<sup>th</sup> graders who worked hard for grounds cleanup.

--Planting programs scheduled for grades K-3. Dorothy is very pleased by teacher interest

Jocelyn—nothing new for enrichment

Daniela Hurley-

Miss Flynn—K playground huge problem—glass embedded in the dirt, etc. Any support from PTO? Mrs. Hartley said this wouldn't be a PTO matter. Karen will contact the town about safety concerns. Town has some responsibility to keep it up.

It was suggested to look for grants possibly from Home Depot—planter boxes—nothing can grow with all of the kids running around in it. Maybe mulch 3 times a year.

Amy C. brainstorming ways to recruit new members. “executive committee” president, VP, secretary, treasurer—can have more than one on all positions. Jessica is happy to continue in community outreach role, but would also welcome help. Flier and email being sent out to ask for nominations and descriptions of the positions.

Susan G. raised the idea of a fundraiser selling rear window stickers? She will look into this.