

Peirce School
Strive to shine: as a student, as a friend
PTO Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 14, 2014

1. Co-President's Greeting - Amy Cooper

Thanks to:

- Dorothy Schuette and helpers for International Night. It was great fun!
- Krissie Delaney and helpers for Teacher Appreciation Day.
- Dorothy, Jessica Callaghan, and helpers for Spring Greening.
- Susan Goetcheus and helpers for Flocking Flamingos, which is still going on.

2. Principal's Remarks - Karen Hartley

Mr. Frank is OK and will be back to work next week.

3. School photos

Co-president EMO (Elisabeth Orrell) will not be taking our school photos next year after all. Instead we have chosen Geskus, who offered us good prices, a \$1500 bonus for signing a three-year contract, and the option of using them for the Fifth Grade Memory Book at about \$7 per copy. This would be much easier than having parents put it together. (Joy got \$500 from Cambridge Savings Bank for this year's Memory Books.)

4. Teacher Appreciation

Steph Eshelman is taking on this job for next year. She has run Teacher Appreciation at Dallin too. She will make it a full week celebration instead of a single day.

5. Arlington Education Foundation representative needed

Ingrid Gallagher is stepping down as our AEF representative at Peirce. Angela Snyder has offered to help us write grants, and may also take on the AEF position. Amy Speare at AEF organizes the liaisons.

6. Lori Pescatore

a. Treasurer's business

A copy of the PTO budget was distributed. It's time to review the budget for next year, decide if there are things we can cut, etc. Our spending is mostly set each year, and we rarely go over, except occasionally for field trips or fifth grade graduation.

- We didn't have to pay for camp scholarships this year.
- For Teacher Appreciation, we decided to get the staff a couch for the teacher's lounge in the fall.
- AEF is no longer asking for \$150 from each school, so we can take that off spending.

b. Fundraising

Next year's fundraisers will be set in the coming month, so we'll have an idea of what we might make next year. We will keep our old favorites and add some new things. The hope is always that the annual drive will do well and take some of the pressure off.

- We will do a Trivia Night in March again next year, add some things to it. We should try to get about 30 more attendees. After that we should skip a year.
- We still need to pay the custodian for the fall Family Dance.
- Recycling Day income went down significantly this year. That may be a fundraiser to do every other year instead. There are a number of schools doing recycling days now, and this year, ours fell on the same day as town-wide recycling, so that's something to avoid. Maybe try flier distribution again.
- Flocking Flamingos earned \$495.

Molly Gillis will be the new fundraising chair next year. We already have people lined up to run all of next year's fundraisers: Lori has hers; Patti Conti is taking over the Peirce Booth at Town Day; the Family Dance crew is set; etc. Molly would like to contact other school PTOs to see what fundraisers have been successful for them. Also, inform parents better about where their money goes, so they don't wonder, e.g., why they're being asked for teacher appreciation money when they already gave \$50 to the general fund.

c. Ice Cream Social

Set for May 23. Be sure to inform everyone on the kindergarten playground afterschool so they don't miss out.

d. Spring Fair

Set for June 6. Lori will have the Signup Genius page ready in a week.

e. Planter near Arlington Coal and Lumber

Lori mulched and is waiting to see what will come up.

f. Field Day

Set for June 20. Grades K-2 are outside from 9 -11 AM; grades 3-5 from 12-2 PM. We will have another Signup Genius.

7. Car Window Stickers

Susan Goetcheus looked into ordering car window stickers using Darren Buck's Peirce Pride design. We can order them now and sell them at the Spring Fair and at Town Day. If we opt for 200 of the 5-inch size, each will cost about \$1.50, and we can sell for \$5. Ask Darren about the colors – navy again? We will order 200 and go from there.

8. Enrichment - Jocelyn Willett, Sherri Bulmer

a. Rocky DiRico

Karate instructor Rocky DiRico came and spoke to the second grade. Kids liked him, but feedback from the teachers wasn't great. He ended up talking more about bullying etc. than about Japan. Jocelyn had hoped he would talk about Japanese culture, e.g., how farming tools came to be used as weapons, etc., but he got sidetracked. Only cost \$100 so not a huge loss.

b. Future Programming

Museum of Science programs are coming up. Jocelyn would like to find out from the teachers if they want these programs every year. The new block scheduling system makes it hard to find time for enrichment -- there is so much the teachers have to get through. Jocelyn needs to know which programs the teachers find worthwhile and would like back next year. It's most helpful if the teachers attend the programs themselves and decide which ones suit their curriculum needs. Jocelyn feels we're missing some opportunities to get grants and programming. Cris Martin noted that her department at Harvard has a mandate to do outreach to public schools, which we could take advantage of.

9. Teachers Representatives

Alicia Coletti could not make it.

10. Other Discussion

a. Fun Run

Angela is interested in holding a Fun Run in November. Ask Janice Weinberg who did this in previous years. The last year she did it, interest fizzled out. But perhaps it's time to try again as there is a new crop of parents now.

b. Curriculum Night and Open House

Curriculum overview will return to the evening timeslot instead of the afternoon. Working parents prefer this. Next year, the teachers don't have as many other evening obligations, so it works out. It might be good to hold Curriculum Night in September and Open House ("Back to School Night") in October. Combining the two events might be difficult as Curriculum Night is parents-only, and Open House is for everyone. Last year we had Open House/Math Night in January to coordinate with the 10th anniversary of the new Peirce building, but parents like to get into the classroom at the beginning of the school year to find how what's going on. This also frees up January for the International Festival or other evening events at school.

c. Recruiting

Open House is a great time for the PTO to welcome and recruit new parents. One suggestion is that we try to have a representative from each classroom attend the PTO meetings. Perhaps a room parent could do this. A summer mailing about the PTO might also help.

11. Officer Elections

Elections will be held at next month's meeting.

<http://peirceschool.info/>