

**Peirce School**  
*Strive to shine: as a student, as a friend*

**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

- 1. Co-Presidents' Greeting – Cris Martin and Angela Snyder**
  - a. Introduction of PTO Board, Teacher Representative, Committee Chairs, and other attendees**
  - b. Recap of last month and thank you to volunteers**
    - Peirce Community Art Show – Emily and Emo
    - AEF Trivia Bee – Flynn Monks, Emily Almas, Cris Martin
  
- 2. Principal's Remarks – Karen Hartley**

Karen is happy to be back full time after her illness.
  
- 3. Committee Updates**
  - a. Teacher Representatives –Colleen Lloyd**

The Teachers' Union will be donating \$50 to each PTO. No other news
  - b. Hospitality – Erin Whalen**

The Ice Cream Social is scheduled for May 22 at 2:15.
  - c. Volunteer Coordinator – Emily Almas**

No news.
  - d. Enrichment – Sherri Bulmer**

Events postponed due to snow have been made up. The New England Aquarium will be using Mrs. T's room when they come on Monday. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society Plantmobile will have to use the music room because the fifth grade has MCAS. The Taiko Drummers are coming April 15 for the second grade.
  - e. Kindergarten Playground – Angela Snyder**

Charlie Radoslovich and his sister are working on the plans and budget for the new playground. Angela is going to follow up with them this weekend, then get together with Colleen to update the AEF grant, which is due April 15. The next stage will be community announcements and fundraising.
  
- 4. Budget Update – Lori Pescatore, Treasurer**

No changes. We have \$6600 from the Annual Drive. We've also received money through Benevity donations, some of which came from AEF, and some of which had no source listed. Lori will remove the Recycling Drive from the budget as we're skipping it this year.

Flocking Flamingoes will make up some of the difference. (Recycling typically brings in \$800-1000.)

## **5. New Business/Proposals**

### **a. Staffing for 2015-2016 PTO events**

- Volunteer recruitment continues to be a problem. Amy and EMO resorted to asking high school students last year. If we are to continue to have these events in the future, we need to find a way to ensure staffing.
- One suggestion is to assign specific events to specific grades. The room parents would recruit parents to staff the events. Kindergarten would get simpler assignments. Ditto for the third and fifth grades. The third grade has Colonial Day to plan. The fifth grade has Science Camp, Graduation, grounds clean-up, carwash, bake sale, etc. That's already a lot for parents. Other ideas?
- Lori says that turning these events over to new hands every year would be difficult. Emily says it might be easier if we keep and update documents explaining the steps to running each event. Or perhaps the head organizer could remain from year to year and specific grades could fill in the other volunteer roles. E.g., Sarah Forney does food for the Spring Fair every year and has it down to a science.
- Colleen: Perhaps several grades together, e.g., kindergarten through second, could be assigned one of the bigger events. That would guarantee continuity from year to year, and ensure that there were at least some people already familiar with running the event each year.
- Maybe it makes more sense to distribute smaller events to the grades: Movie Night, Cookie Decorating, Town Day, etc. We already have thorough notes about how to run most of these events. But big events such as the Book Fair, Spring Fair, and Craft Fair need experienced organizers who can continue to fine tune things each year.
- Many of these events will need a new point person soon. Emily will be sending out an e-mail to find a Town Day coordinator. Jessica Callaghan will be doing the Book Fair for one more year and then transitioning.
- Cate Oranchak: What if we assigned hospitality events to specific grades, but under Erin's guidance. The fifth graders would love to be in charge of the Family Dance, for example.
- Sarah notes that the Food Drive is already divided among the grades, as is Teacher Appreciation Day. The room parents would have even more responsibility if we put event organizing on them, and some grades have had trouble finding room parents at all. This is true at Bishop and elsewhere.
- Lori believes we also need to decide which events we really want to continue with. She feels adult-only community building is missing. Something like the Trivia or Comedy night, but perhaps without the fundraising element. Something to bring parents together and pull people in. March is good time as it's between sports and people are ready to get out of the house.
- Karen notes that the kindergarten orientation on May 1 would be a good time to solicit.

**b. Elections for the 2015-2016 PTO Board and Committee Chairs**

A flyer will go out next week requesting nominations by email through April 24. Voting will take place in person, as it did with the Advisory Council. Votes will be counted in May. Kate suggests that we have a ballot box at each entry and signs outside. A sign on each playground would be a good idea.

**c. Fundraising Update**

- Susan Goetcheus reports that we've raised \$93 selling the Peirce Pride car stickers. We may give them out at kindergarten orientation, along with information on the new playground design, donation links, etc. The outdoor planters will be done prior to that night.
- Flocking Flamingoes forms will go out this month. Susan is still charging \$15 per flock. Flocking will happen in May and June.
- The Teachers' Auction goes live on April 6 and closes on April 17, right before vacation. Flyers will go home soon.
- Dine at Not Your Average Joe's on Tuesdays in April. Bring the flyer and 15% of your bill will go toward the fourth grade Pitching in for Kids/Alanna and Joshua Foundation fundraiser.
- There's been talk of the elementary schools sharing shopping days at Wilson Farm to raise more money.
- Cause & Event 5K. Half of your signup fee goes towards a charity of your choice. The Peirce PTO is one of the charities listed. Also, if we are one of the first five charities to register 10+ volunteers, we get an extra \$100. There is also a Peirce Couch to 5K group.

**d. Any ideas for a fifth grade class gift?**

We need a permanent outdoor sign board with a key. Ask Ethan and Gary about the one that was being assembled previously.

**Upcoming Dates**

April 1	Walk to School Wednesday
April 1-2	3rd & 4th Grades – MCAS Testing
April 6	Teacher Auction opens
April 10	International Festival
April 17	Teacher Auction closes
April 20-24	April Vacation