

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

**PTO Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 3, 2015**

**1. Co-Presidents' Greeting – Cris Martin and Angela Snyder**  
**Recap of last month and thank you to volunteers**

- School Dance – Jessica Markowitz, Liz Katzman
- Book Fair – Jessica Callaghan and her mighty volunteers
- Ice Cream Social – Hospitality Crew
- Flamingo Flocking – Susan Goetcheus and her helpers

**2. Principal's Remarks – Karen Hartley**

- It looks like good weather for the Spring Fair on Saturday.
- The Advisory Council is busy working on next year's School Improvement Plan and coming up with ideas for more afterschool programs. Next year, the elementary schools will have early release every Tuesday at 1:00. Dismissal on the other four days will be at 2:30. Ideas the Council has been considering include: an afterschool keyboarding club, a math club, and finding Arlington High students to help with a homework group.
- The Lockdown Drill went well today – the kids are great at it. Parents were notified. Bishop is now piloting the new shooter response program, ALICE.

**3. Committee Updates**

**a. Community Outreach – Jessica Callaghan**

- Not much going on. We didn't do our usual Electronics Recycling and Cradles to Crayons/More Than Words collections this year. Jessica did Cradles to Crayons at St. Eulalia's instead. The Anton's fall Coats for Kids drive is a very easy service project to do, but collecting books, storing them, and then dropping them off at More Than Words is more work.
- The Spring Book Fair went smoothly, and it was easier to get volunteers than it had been in the fall. Marian Hanley has agreed to work on the Book Fair with Jessica next year, as preparation for taking over the following year.
- We're still looking for a new Community Outreach Chair. Perhaps we should evaluate whether this committee is really necessary anymore. Angela suggests that each grade might take on responsibility for a project. Cris says we can put these questions on the upcoming parent survey.

**b. Landscaping – Dorothy Schuette**

- The Grounds Clean-Up was held in early May. The fifth graders were encouraged to help and earn \$10 each towards their graduation. Ten kids showed up and worked hard, their parents too. But there is so much more to do. There was talk of holding a second Clean-Up, but it never happened.

- The Science Garden is blooming, and some planting was done on Colonial Day. We need to get more people interested in the Science Garden. Years ago, so much effort was put into creating it; we would hate to see it lost. If you know anyone interested in gardening, it's most effective to approach them individually.
- We also need to get the kids out there more, which requires communication with the teachers etc. Next year, we hope to include composting as part of the fifth grade science curriculum.
- We also hope to replace our lunch trays with compostable ones that the town can collect. Lori is going to talk to Public Works and learn more about this over the summer.

**c. Enrichment – Sherri Bulmer**

- The year's final enrichment program, "Weather, Wind, Water," happened today. The Museum of Science programs are always great, and they offer many choices.
- The committee has received no negative feedback on programs this year. Sherri will send out a survey to teachers, asking for feedback on the number and types of programs, their timing, etc.
- Julie Goff has agreed to join Sherri next year.

**d. Kindergarten Playground – Angela Snyder**

- We won our Arlington Education Foundation funding – not for full amount but for \$1500. The Go Fund Me campaign has raised over \$3000.
- Phase 1 of the project should begin this summer. Next year we will start fundraising for Phase 2.
- Parents are getting involved with fundraising ideas. Some suggestions: a race; bricks engraved with donors' names; signs on the playgrounds; stories in the Arlington Advocate and Patch.

**4. Budget Update – Lori Pescatore, Treasurer**

- The Spring Fair is this Saturday. Lori has volunteers for next year, for both the Fair and Town Day.
- Flocking Flamingoes has not brought in very much, given the work involved. Perhaps we should raise the cost of a flocking next year.
- Otherwise, the Budget is in good shape. Chantal Kokaz is ready to take over as Treasurer next year.

**5. New Business/Proposals**

**a. Staffing for 2015-2016 PTO Events**

- Previously we discussed the idea of putting each grade in charge of one or two of the smaller events, but we should hold off on voting for that proposal. Cris first wants to survey parents to find out what events they value and would be willing to commit to. The threat of losing events has to be made real. We should gather this information first, and then in the fall decide how to go about staffing events. Cris will send out a draft of the survey.

- Event Chairs for next year are as follows:
  - Art Show – Genevieve Oba, Elizabeth Kostojohn
  - International Festival – Cris Martin
  - Spring Fair – Erin Whalen, Berley McKenna
  - Town Day – Taryn Hogan, Anne Dixon
  - Talent Show – Greg Jacobs
  - Book Fair – Jessica Callaghan, Marian Hanley

**b. 2015-2016 PTO Board and Committee Chairs**

- Lori offers to step up as President next year, with Jessica as VP.
- Those present unanimously voted in next year’s PTO Board:
  - President – Lori Pescatore
  - Vice President – Jessica Callaghan
  - Treasurer – Chantal Kokaz
  - Secretary – Cris Martin, Devra Dutton
- Committee Chairs for next year are as follows:
  - Enrichment – Sherri Bulmer, Julie Goff
  - Annual Fund – Molly Gillis
  - Communications – Emily Almas, Jessica Markowitz
  - Hospitality – Emily Almas
  - Technology – Dan Gillis
  - Kindergarten Playground – Angela Snyder
  - Room Parent Coordinator – Emily Almas
  - Community Outreach – Jessica Callaghan
  - Fundraising – Erin Whalen

**c. 2015-2016 School Year Budget**

Those present voted to accept the current budget for next year with the following changes:

- Adding a maximum of \$50 per student for fifth grade graduation.
- Adding \$500 to Enrichment to fund the third grade Archaeological Dig.

**Upcoming Dates**

June 3	Walk to School Wednesday 4th Grade Museum of Science program, “Weather, Wind, Water”
June 6	Spring Fair
June 8	Mrs. T’s Aftercare school play, “Shrek Jr.”
June 18	5th Grade Graduation
June 25	Last Day of School!