

PTO Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2005

Location: Deerfield Elementary School Library

Present: Meg Tolmie, Beth Vander Grinten, Kelli Ezzell, Mary Winkler, Christopher Hibner, Lesa Herms, Sheryl Norton, Laura Larson, Nancy Thomas, Belinda Storms, Natalie Cwik, Molly Poirier, Kristin Leigh, Patti Knapp, Deb Annen, Jane Folbrecht, Karen Buzzell, Darnell Reppen, Val Bultman, Dawn Johnson, and Carolyn Duffy

Meeting Called to Order: 6:38 pm

Committee Reports:

➤ PTO Officers/Reports

- Treasurer's Report – Belinda Storms
 - ✓ Balance as of 10/10/05 is \$2,526.80 in checking and \$1,000.00 in savings.
- Craft Fair – Lesa Herms, Becky Collar, Sheryl Norton, Beth Vander Grinten
 - ✓ Crafters/Booths:
 - Booths are full with a waiting list started.
 - The hallway by Teachers Lounge will be eliminated as a craft area.
 - Signs will be placed strategically to allow for smooth traffic flow.
 - Volunteers are need for set-up on Friday evening, various shifts on Saturday, and take down Saturday afternoon/evening.
 - Layout to be provided to Chris Hibner following completion.
 - ✓ Raffle:
 - Prizes are coming in. Approximately 50 commitments to date. Typical number of prizes usually reaches 100.
 - Top prizes are \$500 cash, \$300 cash, and 200 gas card.
 - Looking for more prizes, anyone wishing to make a contribution can contact Sheryl Norton or Michele Wee.
 - ✓ Publicity:
 - Flyers are printed, we saved over \$265 printing through the charter school.
 - Ad placements have been made and will run in all surrounding community newspapers two consecutive weeks prior to craft fair. A line item ad will run in the Janesville Gazette 9 consecutive days prior to the event. One ad will run in the Advertiser the week prior to the event. The costs are within \$5 of what we paid previously for same ad placements.
 - Volunteers needed to hang flyers in surrounding communities, craft stores, grocery stores, churches and other high visibility areas.
- Enrichments – Val Bultman
 - ✓ First Enrichment was Professor Numbers. Feedback by teachers present was that the older kids enjoyed more and the younger kids didn't get as much. More impressive for the older kids.
 - ✓ Enrichment schedule presented. The enrichment schedule exceeds the budget approved in May for 2005/2006 enrichments. It was determined in May 2005 that the 2005/2006 operating budget would be based off of the same activities from 2004/2005. If the budget for any individual activity exceeds the previous budget by more than 10% additional approval is necessary. In

2004/2005 \$2,900 was spent on enrichments, the current schedule for 2005/2006 is \$3,820. The average # of enrichments is 7-8. The 2005/2006 schedule includes 10 enrichments. Val commented that she missed the May meeting and was not aware of this. She will keep the budget in mind when planning future enrichments.

- ✓ Motion made by Sheryl Norton to approve the budget of \$3,820 for enrichments for the 2005/2006 school year, 2nd by Belinda Storms. Discussion included keeping original budget in mind for next school year. All approved.
- ✓ Further discussion included adding "Fade to Black" as a possible co-sponsored enrichment for the Spring. Discussion included that the topics covered under "Fade to Black" may not be appropriate for the elementary students. Various parents with 6th Grade students voiced concerns about content and not wanting their children exposed to this yet. Discussion included that topics appropriate for 7th grade are not appropriate for 6th grade. No dollars have been allocated to "Fade to Black," discussion will resume in the event that the PTO is asked to co-sponsor this enrichment.

Principals Report:

- DES Principal Chris Hibner
 - Playground Equipment:
 - ✓ A tremendous THANK YOU goes out to ALL who helped with the installation. A few items remain to be finished. One bench and litter receptacle need to be installed. Loose rock removal and mulch loads to be brought in. The school district will complete the necessary tasks, no more volunteers will be needed.
 - ✓ Playground totaled: \$15,990 (this does not include stone removal, concrete, mulch, labor etc). Thank you to the PTO and Deerfield School District for making this happen for our students!
 - Everyday Math Program
 - ✓ All is going well with Everyday Math.
 - ✓ Some concern has been expressed about amount of homework.
 - ✓ To help parents become more familiar with this program, the DES is looking to have a Fall and Spring "Parents Only" Math night to get a better feel of the program. This will include various stations including questions & answers, games, hands-on survey. Upper level elementary students maybe asked to help with this event. In May the students may be asked to share what they have learned "thinking outside the box."
 - ✓ All students have been given their online passes except Kindergarten. The teachers will be giving those to parents during Parent/Teacher conferences. If you would like your Kindergarten Students password sooner, please contact their teacher.
 - ✓ Those students who do not have online access at home may contact the school to see what the availability is of using the computer lab after school. A student WITH their parent can utilize the computer lab after school between 3:00pm-3:45pm. To do this, 1) you must contact Mrs. Darnell Reppen at 764-5442 ext 5208 and let them know what day you would like to use the computer lab, and 2) a parent MUST be present with the student. For other times or availability, please contact the Mrs. Darnell Reppen.
 - ✓ Discussion from parents with students who have had past experience in other school districts with Everyday Math said that although expectations are higher, it works and this program is spectacular.

Teacher Representative Report:

- DES Teacher Kristin Leigh
 - Craft Fair/Raffle:
 - ✓ A sign-up sheet was posted to get more teachers to participate in the craft fair – five teachers have signed up to help.
 - ✓ The DEA (teachers union) has donated a \$50 cash prize to the raffle.
 - Holiday Program:
 - ✓ The DES Holiday Program will be December 15th for K-2 at 7:00pm
 - Open House Dinner:
 - ✓ BIG THANK YOU to the PTO for the Open House Dinner. All that the PTO does is very much appreciated by the Teachers!
 - Scholastic Book Fair:
 - ✓ The Scholastic Book Fair will again coincide with the Parent/Teacher conferences. The Fall dates are 11/21, 11/22 and 11/23. Volunteers are needed. If you can donate an hour of your time, please contact Mrs. Darnell Reppen at 764-5442 ext 5208.

New Business:

- None

Old Business:

- None

Other:

- Enrichments – Starting on time is a must. To secure discounts, we have scheduled on same date as Cambridge and the presenters must stay on time to meet both school districts assemblies. Problem arises with seating. Students tend to arrive at same time from same directions causing “bottleneck.” Suggestions included dismissing at intervals and having a seating arrangement. Mr. Hibner will address the concern and look for ways to improve and to start the assemblies on time.
- Thank you to the PTO from Judy Storms for the Secretaries Day gift certificate. To show her appreciation, she sent treats for the members present at the meeting.
- Thank you to the PTO for the Open House for Retiring Teachers from Jennifer Frickleton. To show her appreciation, she sent treats for the members present at the meeting.
- Middle/High School PTO meeting to be held at the DMS Resource Area on October 24th at 6:150pm.
- January PTO meeting
 - This will be a potluck. Dinner at 6:00pm with meeting to follow at 6:30pm. All are welcome and babysitting will be provided during the meeting.
 - Discussion included have a presentation from a company who would like to solicit our business for an after school program pertaining to science. The after school program is a 10 week session at a cost of \$85 per student. Discussion ended with the majority present not wishing to hear their presentation, but suggested they submit their proposal in writing to the school for consideration.
- Next PTO Meeting
 - The next PTO meeting will be held November 14th at 6:30pm at the DES. Complimentary babysitting provided.

Meeting Adjourned – 7:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by Beth Vander Grinten