

PTO Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2008

Attendance: Kelli Ezzell, Mary Winkler, Kristin Leigh, Lesa Herms, Kristin Wild, SuAnn Bartenhagen, Michele Wee, Jen Stevens, Belinda Storms, Carolyn Duffy, Loretta RiChard, Norman Green, Erik Witt, Monica Zander, Sheryl Norton, and Dawn Johnson.

Excused: Beth Vander Grinten, Patti Knapp, Darnell Reppen, and Mark Becker.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Treasurer's Report after anticipated expenses we have an approximate checkbook balance of \$5,300 and savings balance of \$2,200.

Principal's Report given to Kelli Ezzell ahead of time as Mr. Becker was absent. Upcoming dates: Character Education day scheduled for June 6th and 6th grade graduation on June 5th.

Any concerns regarding the 6th grade class sizes or number of teachers for the upcoming year should be directed to Mr. Becker or through public input at the School Board meetings (held every 3rd Monday of the month). If possible, contact the district office to let them know you plan to give public input.

Funding for the climbing wall is set and we're in the process of ordering it. It has yet to be determined when it can be installed with an update at the April meeting. Thank you very much for your contribution. It will be money well spent for our children.

Mrs. Treuden shared the following information regarding questions raised about the Kindergarten lunches. She will also be willing to stop in at the April meeting if there are further questions.

- **The quantity of food the K kids are being given** – *all students K-6 are offered the same quantity of food. At times a student will ask for a smaller portion of a particular item. We do accommodate the request if the child still has enough food on their tray to qualify as a meal.*
- **If it's a possibility for them to get more food if they're hungry** – *at this time, students are not offered extra portions of the entrée. Students are allowed to purchase an extra milk and have unlimited access to the fresh fruit and vegetable choices offered each day.*
- **If it's being communicated to them that they can have more food if they're hungry** – *I believe students are aware that the fresh fruit and vegetables are available in unlimited quantities. For sanitation purposes, it would not work for students to come back to the serving line after they have eaten their meal.*
- **If they're being encouraged to take a balanced meal** – *Students must have three of five items on their tray before they leave the lunch line*

(milk, bread, protein, fruit, vegetable) in order to meet the requirements for a school meal. The food service staff does not have much time to encourage students to take more than the required three items.

- **If they're being given smaller portions, why aren't the k meals less expensive than other grades?** – *K students are not given smaller portions.*

Several parents at the meeting expressed concerns with the school lunch program. Some examples were: running out of food (especially for the later lunch), serving sizes of 2 chicken nuggets, kids coming home hungry only on hot lunch days, etc. We decided to have Mrs. Treuden address questions at the beginning of the April meeting.

Post-Meeting Note: Mrs. Treuden isn't available on Thursday April 17th for our next meeting. We will check into the possibility of having someone else address the questions raised.

Teacher Report

Kristin Leigh passed along a request to replenish the playground equipment in the classrooms. They would like similar items as the last time, balls, jump ropes, etc. Also we're holding a 3rd Book Fair with ½ price books between May 19th and May 23rd. Volunteers are needed most for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Contact Darnell Reppen if you're available.

Committee Reports

Character Education Day – Friday June 6th

The dunk tank is reserved. It will be delivered after 4pm on June 5th. Can we see if the custodians can fill it up the morning of the 6th? The teachers will be collecting the money for the dunk tank ahead of time and putting it in the PTO mailbox. It will state in the flyer that kids should donate \$1.00 if they can. That way no one will be left out.

We will have apples and ice cream cups again. Anna will get the ice cream toppings again. Erik Witt will donate his time and kettle corn again this year. We need to provide the 20 oz cups and two volunteers to help. Erik will also send home a sheet /order form for kids that would like to purchase additional bags of kettle corn. The money will be collected ahead of time and the bags will be delivered to their classrooms. Teachers please let him know the day before how many bags need to be delivered to each room.

Patti will coordinate volunteers for the outdoor games and will discuss with Mr. Becker and Brett. If you're available to volunteer, please contact Patti Knapp.

Market Day

Next Market Day orders are due by March 31st with a pick-up date of April 3rd.

Committee Reports con't.

Teacher Appreciation Week

No report – Just a reminder that it will be the week of April 28th.

Enrichments

Upcoming: Trinity Irish Dancers on March 14th and UW Whitewater Wheelchair Basketball Team on March 20th.

Health Fair Reminder – May 1st for 4th, 5th and 6th grades. We should have the Dane County Sheriff's Dept., UW Health, a Yoga Demonstration, St. Mary's as well as others.

Next year the plan is to do the Health Fair for K-3rd grade.

Old Business

Request for new Market Day Signs – Ann brought information regarding signs available through Market Day. The prices are \$14/each for the yard signs. The more substantial signs are \$35 for the base and \$20 for the sign sleeve. Anna would like to purchase 2 substantial signs and several yard signs for the various streets/homes in the neighborhoods.

Motion was **MS&C** to purchase one substantial sign base and sleeve at this time with further discussion for the April meeting regarding the purchase of additional signs.

New Business

3rd Book Fair discussed under Teacher Report section.

Kindergarten Visitation – April 17th and 18th

We typically provide food/snacks for the incoming parents and students. Anna will order some cookie dough and several people volunteered to bake them (Kristin, Lesa, and Sheryl). Also others offered to bring in home-baked goods (Jen and Belinda).

We need to coordinate with Mr. Becker the times that having a PTO representative would be helpful to talk about what we do. Also, need to coordinate getting PTO information to him. Anna will talk about the PTO on the 18th at the 1:00 session.

Town Hall Meeting – April 1st @ the Deerfield Community Center – Free What Every Parent and Teen Needs to Know about Teens, Alcohol, and Brain Development

This is recommended for parents of 4th, 5th and 6th graders (and older) because more alcohol use is being reported in those grade levels.

6:00 Dinner

6:30 Best Foot Forward presentation – Deerfield High School’s Peer Drama Group

7:00 pm Presentation by Scott Caldwell, Substance Abuse Specialist and Prevention Counselor with the State of Wisconsin

RSVP to the Bridges office at 764-5431 ext. 4111

Judy Storms Day – proposed by Randy Zakowski

Randy Zakowski brought the request to the PTO to coordinate a special surprise recognition day for Judy Storms. She is such a special person that he really wants to make sure she knows how much we all appreciate everything she does. He is willing to fund but wanted help with the planning and coordinating. With much discussion and agreement that Judy definitely deserves it, the PTO members present felt that it wouldn’t be fair to others that deserve recognition as well. It was discussed that he could show his appreciation of her on Administrative Assistants Day or nominate her for the Lions Club Citizen of the Year Award.

Bridges / Mike McGowen Night for Parents of Elementary kids on April 14th

Bridges over-booked speakers for their transition (6th and 8th grades) night on April 14th. They wanted to know if we would like Mike McGowen to address the parents of the elementary aged kids.

Motion **MS&C** to donate \$100 to Bridges to help cover the cost of Mike McGowen’s talk and to coordinate treats for the parents that night.

Contact Lesa Herms or Kelli Ezzell if you’re able to bring treats that night.

Announcements

Watch for the School Kitz Order Forms (for school supplies for next fall) to be sent home after spring break.

Next Meeting Date – April 17th @ 6:00 pm

Please Note: Earlier start time due to the anticipated length of discussions regarding our activities and events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm