

Minutes PTA Meeting  
Monday, September 12, 2011

Present: Margaret Boeger, Kate Boyd, Brett Buchanan, Antoinette Butts, April Citti, Susan Cook, Amy Critchett, Carla Denner Epstein, Anne Digges, Jill Eskes, Elizabeth Fee, Carlin Finke, Liz Foote, Maureen Gottschall, Meriani Grue Jepsen, Greg Guildner, Jessemy Harris, Janet Hayes, Tena Jackson, Jackie Lebihan, Miel Louviere, Jennifer Mattox, Angela Mills, Anita Morris, Annika Nelson, Kristine Nolan, Christie Reynolds, Amy Schilling, Joanne Smaciarz, Tara Smith, Jason Sutter, Ingrid Tuchband, Marjorie Turrel, Lyn Van Tighem

- I. Guest Speaker Betsy Fox of the Caring School Community talked about the importance of giving our children not just a great academic education, but a rich social education as well. She discussed tools that teachers use through class meetings and collective problem solving to create a safe learning environment. She pointed out that children who feel secure at school are more likely to excel academically and she cited statistics that Fortune 500 companies now rank problem solving skills and the ability to work collaboratively above all else. More about the Caring School Community at <http://www.devstu.org/caring-school-community>.
- II. Christie Reynolds called meeting to order.
- III. Anita Morris motioned to approve May Minutes, seconded by Kate Boyd. There was no opposition to the motion therefor the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Christie Reynolds explained the 2011-2012 budget. \$8,032 carry over from last year. Income listed is what PTA hopes to bring in. Expenses are items identified by PTA as important school programs to support. Budget can be found on school website in the PTA section. Susan Cook motioned to approved budget, seconded by Anita Morris. There was no opposition to the motion therefor the motion passed unanimously.
- V. New Board elected: Susan Cook motioned to elect the following board members: Co-presidents, Kate Boyd and Susan Cook; Vice President in charge of membership, Anita Morris; Treasurer, Antoinette Butts and Secretary, Carlin Finke. New board voted in unanimously. Other board positions appointed by co-presidents: Vice President for Performing Arts, Tena Jackson and Historian, Tricia De Carli.
- VI. Special Note: Kate Boyd, Susan Cook, Antoinette Butts and Tricia Di Carli have signing authority on PTA checks. Each check requires two signatures.
- VII. Susan Cook motioned to ratify the increase in PTA membership dues from \$10 to \$15. Carlin Finke seconded the motion. New dues comparable to Grant and Cherry Valley schools. There was no opposition to the motion therefor the motion passed unanimously.
- VIII. Jackie Lebihan, Volunteer Coordinator talked about critical volunteer positions that need to be filled. Discussion included need for job descriptions. Short term, finite jobs may draw more volunteers. See school website and community bulletin across from office for details.
  - a. Garden Program:
    - i. Jason Sutter mentioned that there is a little money that can be dedicated to a fall garden teaching program should there be enough parent volunteers to make it happen.
  - b. Recess Renaissance:

- i. Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch recess for both lower and upper grades.  
Volunteers needed for an hour at lunch recess approximately from 11:40-12:40.
- c. Buddies for New Families
- d. Performing Arts. Upper grades performance in the fall, primary grades in the spring.
- e. Wishing Tree – items and volunteer services needed and offered board in hallway near office.

#### XI. Upcoming Events:

- a. Sept. 18-24 TV Turn Off
- b. Sept. 19-23 Book Fair
- c. Sept. 23 Dessert Night 6-8
- d. Sept. 30 Jog-A-Thon
- e. Sep 26-Oct 28 After School Enrichment
- f. October 15 Harvest Carnival 11-3
- g. TBD Elder's Day
- h. Aug 20-Nov 18 Rehearsals for Performing Arts
- i. Nov. 18, 19 Performance of the "Wizard of Oz"
- j. Dec 3 Homespun Craft Fair 10-2

#### XII. Mrs. Bussey's Literary Events

- a. "Race to Nowhere" documentary film screening on November 3, 7pm at Grant School Auditorium. Discussion facilitated by Betsy Fox.
- b. Mrs. Bussey is researching the possibility of hosting a "Green Eggs and Ham" Breakfast in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday March 2.
- c. Mrs. Bussey will not coordinate a Poetry Slam this school year. Interested parents and school staff are researching other avenues to celebrate poetry week.
- d. Mrs. Bussey is considering spending a portion of her library budget on an author event.

#### XIII. Open Discussion

- a. Popsicles sales to start Wednesday, September 14, 2011. Will always have a 100% fruit juice option. Serves as a PTA fundraiser and community event.
- b. Jennifer Mattox, Escrip coordinator, explained that this easy program brings in thousands of dollars for the school. Grocery and credit cards can be registered on Escrip and for each sale on the card, a percentage goes to the school. There is no cost to the card holder.
- c. Liz Foote and Suzie Parsons will be coordinating the spring fundraiser for Friends of McNear. The goal for this year is to focus on it as a McNear community event first and a fundraiser second. Scheduled for April 14 at the Lucchesi Community Center.
- d. Carlin Finke is interested in creating "Healthy Kids" research group/committee to research and recommend ways to improve nutrition at school. Please contact Carlin Finke at [cmfinke@yahoo.com](mailto:cmfinke@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating.

**Next PTA Meeting: November 7, 2011 at 7pm**