

MINUTES OF WOODLAND PTO MEETING
Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The PTO meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM by Danielle Scala.

AGENDA ITEMS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Dr. Huss)

- Dr. Huss thanked the PTO for a productive year, as well as for their financial, moral and volunteer support to the Woodland community.
- He reminded parents: (1) about the upcoming Field Day, scheduled for June 6 (with a rain date of June 9); and encouraged them to sign up to chair PTO events and to volunteer for various opportunities at school.
- He noted that NJASK testing is completed and that there are five weeks of school remaining, but asked if parents could continue to remind students to work hard and finish the remaining weeks strong.
- Dr. Huss introduced a presentation by three Fifth Grade students on Helping the Environment.

FIFTH GRADE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESENTATION (Fifth Grade students Meghna Bobb, Shruthi Ramasamy and Neha Venkatesh)

- Fifth Grade students Meghna Bobb, Shruthi Ramasamy and Neha Venkatesh provided a power point presentation entitled "the Going Green Project" to the PTO membership. The presentation was supervised by Fifth Grade Teacher Mary Pat Brown.
- The power point presentation discussed the pros and cons of using paper and plastic material and the effect of each on the environment.
- In addition to the power point presentation, the students prepared a brochure containing the information from the presentation and distributed it to the PTO membership attending the meeting.
- The presentation is being presented to each Woodland class.

TEACHER LIAISON (Mrs. Brower)

Mrs. Brower expressed the staff's appreciation for all of the things that were done for the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, including the expression of thanks from the students, the breakfast, luncheon, daily gifts and the chiropractic massage. Following the Fifth Grade presentation, Mrs. Brower also observed the growing awareness of the students to environmental issues.

PROPOSED 2014-2015 PTO BUDGET

Danielle Scala reviewed the items and funding amounts proposed in the 2014-2015 PTO budget. She summarized current funding levels (noting that year to date numbers are still incomplete) and the proposed funding levels for the 2014-2015 budget. Discussion occurred on a number of items, including:

- **FUNDING SOURCES**: Various fundraising options are being reviewed and an important issue that needs to be assessed is how to improve the level and amount of financial participation by the community, including: the structure of the fund drive; individual fundraising events; opportunities to support specific events; and improved communication with parents at Back to School Night and through Grade Level Representatives and Homeroom Parents.
- **CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDING CATEGORIES**: There is an ongoing review of assessing the ability to combine certain funding categories in order to maximize potential available resources. Possible areas of consolidation include: Dream It-Fund It with Cultural Arts; Green Thumb and Earth Day; and Read Across America Day and Young Authors Day.
- **2014-2015 EVENTS** will include Science Day and International Day.
- **FIELD DAY**: A new line item will be added to the 2014-2015 budget for items that may be purchased for field day activities.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS (Danielle Scala)

Danielle Scala provided an update on the following items:

- **END OF YEAR SURVEY**: 43 people responded to the end of year survey, which solicited input and feedback from parents on a number of topics, including ways to increase parent participation, the scheduling of PTO meetings to improve attendance, and satisfaction with Simply Gourmet
- **DIRECTORY AND MOBILE APP**: Only a printed directory will be offered next year. The mobile app will be discontinued due to poor usage. More volunteers are needed to help manage the directory.
- **SCHOOL SPIRIT CLOTHING**: A new chair will be needed and there will be a review of items that are offered for purchase and when they should be offered over the course of the school year.
- **SIMPLY GOURMET**: There was a review of Simply Gourmet for this year as well as discussion as to some changes that may be proposed for next year to also utilize some local vendors and perhaps create other opportunities to raise funds for the PTO.

REVIEW OF RECENT EVENTS (Danielle Scala)

Danielle Scala reviewed recent events:

- **YOUNG AUTHORS DAY** was April 4, 2014. The day was very successful and Danielle Scala thanked Tracy Mazure-Lefkowitz for chairing the event and for everyone who volunteered at the event.
- **READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY**: Danielle Scala thanked Karen Madura and Ana Sanles-Martin for their hard work for RAAD.
- **PTO APPRECIATION EVENT** was held on April 24, 2014 at Delicious Heights.
- **EARTH DAY** was in April. Danielle Scala thanked Noreen Scuderi for coordinating the clean-up and beautification of Woodland.

- ART DAY, which was planned by Art Teacher Jennifer Ronkiewicz and held on April 30, 2014, was very successful. Some of the student activities included still life, a potter and Jackson Pollack. There were many volunteers. Danielle Scala thanked Cindy Percario for chairing the event and for everyone who volunteered at the event.
- MOVIE NIGHT was held on Friday, May 2, 2014. Despicable Me 2 was shown. The event was well attended (predominantly by the lower grade students).
- TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK was held the week of May 5, 2014. The activities included expressions of thanks from the students, a breakfast and luncheon, and gifts throughout the week. Danielle Scala thanked Tanya McAusland for chairing Teacher Appreciation Week and all the volunteers who contributed to making the week a success.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Danielle Scala)

- PATRIOTS GAME: The Patriots Game is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2014 and is being coordinated with other elementary schools. 129 tickets have been purchased.
- FIRST DAY SCHOOL SUPPLIES: A new vendor is being used to provide school supply kits. The items and brands included in the kits were selected based on teacher input and recommendation. A portion of the purchase price is returned to the PTO. The deadline for ordering the school supply kits is June 15. Supply kits may be ordered at: http://www.1stdayschoolsupplies.com/list.php?school_zip=07059&Go=Go

VOTES (Danielle Scala)

- 2014-2015 PROPOSED BUDGET: On a motion by Alice Stout and seconded by Judy Shanahan, the membership approved the proposed 2014-2015 PTO Budget.
- MARCH 11, 2014 PTO MEETING MINUTES: On a motion by Alice Stout and seconded by Judy Shanahan, the membership approved the minutes of the March 11, 2014 Woodland PTO Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.