

# PES PTO Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Beginning Time: 9:40 a.m.

**Attendance:** Christine Koobatian, Marni Baggett, Cathy Winter, Eileen Studdert, Michele Pangle, Carissa Keepin, Beth Rosen, Sherry Swanson, Karen Opalka, Lisa Coville, Sue Dolan, Jessi Booth, Jen Enger, Nanci Uliano, Jeanne-Marie Hudson, Christine Zink, Carolyn Keller, Eleanor Tremblay, Barrie Vela, Jackie Westlein, Cathy Sexon-Dale, and Mary Silverman (22 attendees)

**Classroom Representatives:** Mrs. Rosa P.M., Mrs. King P.M., Ms. Field, Mrs. Kamide, Mrs. Koss, Mrs. Fein, Ms. Broden, Mrs. Yacawych, Mrs. Lachmann, Mrs. D'Aniello, Mrs. Ciccone, Mrs. Corbin, Mrs. Matthews, Ms. Stoddard, Mr. Battaglia, and Mrs. Canty **Missing:** Mrs. Rosa A.M., Mrs. King A.M., Ms. K. Kloss, Mrs. Tyler, Ms. O'Brien, Mrs. Conner, Mrs. Ewers, and Mrs. Spencer

## President's Report (Christine Koobatian):

- The Evening Under The Stars Committee is off to a good start. Christian Galasso will spearhead the Donations Committee and write the program, Cathy Winter will manage the venue and the licensing, Nicole Dragone will head up the decorations committee, Sherry will manage publicity and invitations, and Jennifer Parrella will head up Corporate donations. There is plenty of room for help, especially with soliciting donations. We are also still looking for a person to Chair this event. For now, Christine will keep the momentum going.
- The directories are complete and will be distributed this week. Thank you to Tania Villalba for creating the directory and to Heather Aldo for managing the orders and distribution.

## Principal's Report (Carissa Keepin):

- October is an assessment month at PES in addition to continuing with curriculum. We use these assessments to update our reading group placements (after children had assessments in May and those scores travel with them for reading group placement into the next year's classes). We will be updating reading group placements, determining students who may need reading intervention or SIP support especially in math. Teachers will be sharing assessment results with you in the areas of reading and math at conferences. At all the grade levels we will be using our professional development time this Friday to analyze results across the grade level and look for weaker areas to set SMART goals for, and decide upon the best instructional approaches to use to improve the weaker achievement areas. PES teachers are in the forefront of this initiative which is part of our Region 15 Strategic Plan.
- PES Second grade teacher Debbie Fein, is working with the well known children's author Annie Barrows to publish lessons and activities that Debbie developed for the author's popular children's series, Ivey and Bean. Two years ago Debbie's third grade class entered a contest through Chronicle Book Publisher, with all students writing essays on friendship, a common theme in Ms. Barrow's books. Mrs. Fein's class won this contest, and the author came to PES to visit with her class. Mrs. Barrows was so impressed with the related literacy and learning activities that Mrs. Fein had done with the students in preparation for this visit, that the author shared them with her publisher. The publisher contacted Mrs. Fein to seek permission to not only publish these outstanding learning activities, but to develop more instructional materials to go along with the entire series of books. Mrs. Fein is currently developing new lessons and activities to send to Annie Barrows and publisher and her class just received an advance copy of the author's latest book!
- I am so proud of PES students and staff for going above and beyond our district wide recycling program. Rachel Ewers gr. 5 teacher and her fifth graders have inspired the entire school to recycle bottle caps, which are usually not recycled by the vendors and end up as trash and often migrate into our rivers and oceans. This was a suggestion from one of our past fifth graders and

we are going full throttle. Also Pat Smith is now doing a Bottle for Books drive where money from bottles is used to purchase books for the Media Center.

- We are starting to talk about building the budget for next year. Since many school line items were drastically cut for this year, we must see these numbers increase back to original levels at least, for next year. We have been very thrifty and teachers have used every extra resource and stash of materials they have had on their shelves. But the shelves are too bare to do this again. You will also see unusual requests in PTO grants this year as a result of having no extra money for supplies and no money for equipment or furniture.

#### **Teachers Representatives' (Cindy Canty):**

- Mrs. Soltesz and Mrs. Clifford are organizing a coat drive that will begin Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> and end Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. The coats will be given to the Waterbury Family Youth Services.
- The teachers are very excited about the teacher grants and are looking forward to hearing what has been approved.
- Bulletin Boards..any parent who would like to offer their service to their child's teacher to create a bulletin board in that grade's hallway, let the teacher know. The teachers love parent involvement.

#### **Vice President's Report (Cathy Winter):**

- Teacher Grants: Update (Cathy Winter for Yvette Lomaro). Yvette sent an email to everyone who expressed an interest in helping with the Teacher Grant committee. Our meeting will be at 1 PM on Thursday, November 12th in the Eugene Brown Room at the Southbury Public Library. Letters and applications have gone out to all 88 staff members of PES.
- We have received 13 grant applications totaling \$5,577.65. We have \$4, 374.76 to allocate b/c we allocated \$625.24 for recess equipment in August.

#### **Treasurer's Report (Marni Baggett):**

- Please see the actual vs. budget on reverse of agenda. Note that while the Fall Fundraiser supports the entire budget, the lionshare is for Grants, Author/Illustrator, Cultural Enrichment, Playground Tune up, etc. If certain Income items produce more income than anticipated and certain Expense items come in under budget, the PTO Board does reallocate these extra funds to line items that may need more money.
- We have our major fundraiser in the Fall so we can ensure the budget we created over the summer will be able to be met; otherwise, we will adjust the budget.
- We also discussed how to increase our percentage of participation for the Fall Fundraiser...ideas: 'mini eagle posters' (or something like that) around the school acknowledging families that contribute (w/out money amounts....Carissa ok'd the mini posters), 'thank you' magnets for people to put on their cars in exchange for their donations, or a letter that goes out mentioning families who participated (no amount listed).

#### **Secretaries Report (Michele Pangle):**

- Remember to sign both sign-in sheets: Room Parent Sheet and PTO Attendance. Please be sure to print your name so I can read it for the minutes.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **1. Fall Fundraiser (Christine Zink):**

- Still taking donations. An email just went out reminding people they can still contribute.
- \$10,5000.00 raised at this point; does not include any money received after the meeting; estimated amount to date is \$11,000.
- 160 families have donated to date; 48% family participation.
- \$300.00 in company matches

##### **2. Board of Education (Alex Gittines):**

- Please vote; polls will be open after the meeting
- The forum was well attended and I thank Christine Koobatian, Toula Ousouljoglou, Karen Kirk, Kathy DeRienzo, Dr. Sippy and all the volunteers who helped to organize the evening. As well, I thank the people who attended and submitted questions – it made the evening informative and worthwhile for both the audience and the candidates
- At the last BOE meeting, Dr. Lanning and principals from the middle and elementary schools presented data on the CMT's.
- The Board is currently negotiating teacher's contracts, though those discussions occur in executive session and therefore not open to the public.
- The new bullying policy was passed. I'm still reading trying to get the info on the new policy, but it looks like it has added the school bus as part of the new policy. The policy is in keeping with the changes to CT State legislation on bullying.
- The next meeting is November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. I believe the next five year school calendar is on the agenda for approval by the Board.

### **3. Family Night Out (Michele Pangle):**

- Family Night Out at Blue Colony Diner was well received. Everyone seemed to have a good time. We raised around \$275.00
- The next Family Night Out is Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at DiPalma's.
- The other Family Nights Out are:
  - December 10<sup>th</sup> at Oriental Gourmet
  - January 13<sup>th</sup> at Miranda's
  - February TBD at Leo's

### **4. Box Tops (Debbie Nemas):**

- Box top winners are as follows:
  - Matthew Karp – 434
  - Stephen Bruce – 381
  - Louis Lucatino – 271
- Mrs. Canty's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class has won for highest % participation.
- We raised \$751 with this contest.
- We had 7 people counting this season as follows: Sue Grom, Jennifer Perella, Carol Dovidas, Christian Galasso, Dell Weaver, Sandra Lounsbury, and myself.
- Submission to General Mills will be on Friday Oct 30th.

### **5. Game Night (Karen Opalka):**

- Bingo was a great night with almost 50 people there.
- Great prize including a \$10.00 Blockbuster gift pack as the grand prize.
- Next game night will be Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Might try doing a fundraiser at this game night..maybe bring a food item to give to the needy.

### **6. Stop and Shop A+ for Schools (Christine Koobatian for Janet Yule):**

- Can register your card online at Stop and Shop.com under "our stores" there is a section on A+ for schools. Our-school code is 07243. Points earned by shopping there are translated into dollar amounts for our school. Checks will be sent each month. As of today, 11 people have signed up.

### **7. Visiting Author (Christine Koobatian for Diedre Johnson):**

- Well received
- Teachers said Alan Katz was very good

### **8. Holiday Fair (Michele Pangle):**

- Holiday Fair is Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- In need of wrapping paper donations or gift bags

- If you want to volunteer to help at the Fair, please contact Michele Pangle at [shell26@charter.net](mailto:shell26@charter.net)
- Nicole Dragone is going to be running a bake sale at the Fair. If you can bake an item or help with the bake sale, contact Nicole Dragone at [Nicole@dragone.com](mailto:Nicole@dragone.com)
- Tables are \$30.00 for outside vendors
- Looking for people to donate crafts to sell at the Fair. The PTO would make 100 percent profit from these donated crafts

**9. Square Dancing (Christine Koobatian for Lisa Duhamel):**

- Event is next Friday (November 13<sup>th</sup>)
- Tickets are \$5.00 each; limited amount available
- Professional caller will teach you how to dance for those that don't know how to square dance.

**10. Craft Night (Heather Aldo):**

- Halloween Craft Night was a near sell-out! Thank you to everyone who came and made nearly all the crafts we had available! The children seemed to enjoy themselves.
- A total of 27 children were registered for this evening, this is much higher participation than we've seen recently.
- We would like to be more prepared for these larger groups, so we will attempt to have registration close perhaps as early as 2 weeks **prior to the event** so that we can make purchases based on actual numbers.
- The next Craft Night will be in anticipation of Valentine's Day and other "winter" crafts will be available for all age groups. Look for the registration forms to go out via email through the PES PTO distribution list in early *January*.

**11. Hospitality (Cathy Winter for Dawn Kowalski):**

- Hospitality: Candy Corn Contest results (Cathy Winter) - There were 1122 candy corns. And the winners are...  
 Staff - Cindy Canty (1126!!)  
 K - Skyler from Mrs. Rosa's afternoon class (1063)  
 1st - 3 way tie, all from Mrs. Kloss' class - Avik, Sean & Christopher M. (1060)  
 2nd - Jada from Mrs. Yacawych (1032)  
 3rd - Elizabeth E. from Mrs. D'Aniello (1203)  
 4th - Matthew P. from Mrs. Corbin (1088)  
 5th - Keith Hornak from Mrs. Canty (1110)

**Other (Carissa Keepin):**

- Selling wreaths for Susan B. Anthony (domestic violence). If you would like one, contact Carissa
- Wee Deliver will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Raffle Winners: Lunch with Carissa Keepin – Eileen Studdert  
 Gift Certificate to Dunkin Donuts – Jen Parrella

- *The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted by:  
 Michele Pangle, PTO Secretary