

*Parent Teacher Organization
Salem School*

PTO Minutes

October 21, 2008
Salem School Library
200 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06420

1. Call to Order- Tammy Petersen, 7:01pm
In attendance: Tammy Petersen, Tandy Acuna, Jason Maziarz, Barbara James, Deb Luck, Michelle Guertin, Jennifer Pletcher, Mona Dee Miller, Carla Leininger, Kristie Fresco-Hawes, Cynthia Maiolo, Eileen Perron, Kelly Chella, Kate Belleville, and Linda Robson
2. Officers' Reports
 - a. Secretary's Report–Michelle Guertin
Minutes from September 16, 2008 meeting reviewed and accepted.
Motion: Deb Luck; Second: Kelly Chella.
 - b. Liaison's Report–Deb Luck
Enrichment requests from Grade 7 (Sweeney) for \$172.11 toward materials for light-tight cameras and Grade 5 (Neri) for \$55.90 toward "Character Counts" incentives were reviewed and approved.
Motion: Tandy Acuna; Second: Kate Belleville.
 - c. The Treasurer's Report –Eileen Perron
Report through 10/21/08 was reviewed and accepted.
Motion: Barbara James; Second: Deb Luck.
The new fundraiser is getting lots of positive feedback. Approximately \$600 had been deposited as of 9/15, with another \$800 collected on 9/16.
3. Wrap Up
 - a. Book Fair
Tandy Acuna reported that the Book Fair did \$7,000 in sales. Credits of ~\$3,000 went toward books for the Media Center, classrooms, and Summer Reading certificates. Students redeemed \$920 in certificates. Another Book Fair is planned for late March or early April. Reading Hall of Famers will need a reminder to finish their requirements before then to get a certificate toward a book.
 - b. Brain Show
The first Family Event of the year was well attended and feedback was positive.
4. New Business
 - a. Club Policy
A new policy was presented to the meeting. Two modifications were suggested: strike the statement that facilitators must be volunteers while leaving the statement that PTO funds cannot be used to pay facilitators and change the cap from a set \$500 to a value that is set at the September PTO meeting each year. The policy was approved with these two changes.
Motion: Tandy Acuna; Second: Mona Dee Miller.
A cap of \$500 was approved for the 2008-2009 school year.
Motion: Kate Belleville; Second: Linda Robson.

It was agreed that the policy and forms would be announced in the newsletter and that they would be available on the PTO website.

ACTION: Michelle Guertin will make sure those two items happen.

Other discussion centered on how to promote awareness about clubs, such as through the Open House or at a special coffee.

b. Club Requests

Linda Robson requested and received approval for \$500 from the Club line item of the budget toward registration fees and facilitator training for Destination Imagination. We may ask some of the teams to perform their skits at the April PTO meeting.

Motion: Tammy Petersen; Second: Deb Luck.

Un-tabling the Drama Club's funding request from the September meeting, \$500 was approved to go toward scenery, costumes, and technical supplies.

Motion: Tandy Acuna; Second: Mona Dee Miller.

c. SpiritWear

Meeting participants were either neutral or strongly in favor of offering SpiritWear. Discussion centered on new members of the Salem School Community who don't have the gear from prior years.

ACTION: Kelly Chella and Jennifer Pletcher volunteered to take on this project. Tandy Acuna will get them information to help them get started.

d. Student Directories

Michelle Guertin reported that Sue Weber and Martha Giegel are in progress but were having difficulty making contact with the printer. Response on addresses is similar to last year where there's more participation in the lower grades.

ACTION: Martha Giegel and Sue Weber will get a directory order form out before printing the directories so we order the correct number.

e. Donations

Eileen Perron reported a total dollar amount of \$4,310 with 67 families participating to date. That averages about \$64/family. There were also about \$500 in company matching donations. Suggestions included adding a fundraising thermometer to show progress and including an end of year tax deduction reminder in the next newsletter.

ACTION: Michelle Guertin will use these suggestions in the newsletter.

f. Wish Trees

Sue Bennett reported that trees would be going out to teachers next week.

g. BoxTops for Education

Michelle Guertin reported that Wynn Filewich tallied \$578 worth of BoxTops. The PTO will receive a check for that amount PLUS \$432.50 that was collected in the spring (\$1,010.50 total). Mrs. Phillips class won the classroom competition with 611 BoxTops. Students in that class will receive certificates for an ice cream treat from the cafeteria.

h. Campbell's Labels for Education

Carla Leininger has volunteered to head up this passive fundraiser.

ACTION: Tandy Acuna will send last year's flyer to Carla Leininger who will modify as necessary and distribute.

ACTION: Jason Maziarz will touch base with a contact who works in the grocery business and who may be able to provide us with large quantities of labels.

ACTION: Mona Dee Miller will investigate getting collection boxes for our passive fundraisers in the Salem Library and/or Town Hall.

i. Can Tab Collection

This discussion was tabled until the November meeting in the absence of Sue Bennett who has the information.

j. Cookbook Sales

Leftover cookbooks from last year will be sold at Kids/Adults Go Shopping. Do we also want to sell some outside the Friends of Salem Library Used Book Sale? Deb Luck and Kristie Fresco-Hawes volunteered to do so. Michelle Guertin will be at the Book Sale and can transfer the cash box, etc. between them. Cookbooks are \$15, First Aid Kits are \$5, Blankets are \$25.

ACTION: Eillen Perron will bring the cashbox, Michelle Guertin will bring the merchandise, and Tammy Petersen will do the School Use form.

k. 8th Grade Parent Committee

Tammy Petersen reported that fundraisers are starting to coalesce. More information will be available in November.

5. Upcoming Events

a. Kids Go Shopping/Adults Go Shopping

Scheduled for December 12th. This caused some concern as there are lots of other school events that week. Suggestion is to find a different date.

ACTION: Tammy Petersen will contact Danee Bobowicz regarding the schedule. A question was raised as to whether the PTO will request a fee from vendors at Adults Go Shopping. Decision is to ask for a "donation," rather than charge a fee.

b. Morning at the Movies

Tandy Acuna reported that the November Family Event will be Bolt at Niantic Cinemas on November 23rd. Salem students enter for free. Watch for a flyer in mid-November with complete details.

c. Other Family Events

Tandy Acuna reported that she's investigating laser tag, a laser light show (\$700 – perhaps a good mid-winter event?), and bowling. Roller and ice skating were also suggested. And finally, a family dance associated with one of the Salem Spirit activities is under consideration for January 30th.

6. Next Meeting – November 18, 2008

Adjournment – 9:00pm

Motion: Linda Robson; Second: Michelle Guertin.