

Parent Teacher Organization

Salem School

PTO Minutes

March 17, 2009

Salem School Library

200 Hartford Road

Salem, CT 06420

1. Call to Order- Tammy Petersen, 7:02pm
In attendance: Tammy Petersen, Michelle Guertin, Jennifer Pletcher, Mona Dee Miller, Sue Bennett, Nikki Gullickson, Jason Maziarz, Deb Luck, Phyllis Kovall, Carla Leininger, Sue Weber, Denise Orsini
2. Officers' Reports
 - a. Secretary's Report–Michelle Guertin
A letter of thanks from Mrs. Butterworth's 1st Grade (for the ice cream reward for BoxTops) was read.
Minutes from February 24, 2009 meeting were reviewed and accepted.
Motion: Tammy Petersen; Second: Jennifer Pletcher.
 - b. Liaison's Report–Deb Luck
Three enrichment requests were discussed:
 - Grade 3 will be having a visit from Farmer Minor and Daisy for \$200.
 - Grade 1 will be visiting the Peabody Museum and Yale in support of the science curriculum (dinosaurs) for \$531.
 - Grade 3 will be going on field trip to a quarry in support of their science curriculum (rocks) for \$550.**Motion: Mona Dee Miller; Second: Denise Orsini.**
 - c. The Treasurer's Report –Tammy Petersen for Eileen Perron
Report through 3/17/09 was presented and accepted.
Motion: Deb Luck; Second: Sue Bennett.
3. New Business/Updates
 - a. Assembly
Nikki Gullickson requested up to \$1,000 for an assembly by the Trash Museum about recycling that would occur around the same time as Earth Day and the visiting artist doing barrels.
Motion: Sue Weber; Second: Mona Dee Miller.
 - b. Laser Show
Consensus was that while the 4th Grade presentation was excellent, the evening show went on a bit long, had technical difficulties, and resulted in chaotic children running amok. Might be nice to bring the show back again for Grade 4 enrichment (maybe invite other schools to defray costs?), but probably don't need another family night.
 - c. Passive Fundraisers
Carla Leininger reported that we have 13,600 Campbell's points, but will wait before we use them. Have quite a collection of printer cartridges to send in. And no one stepped forward to head up the TerraCycle pilot, so we won't be doing this at this time. Relatedly, Nikki mentioned that she's working to get recycling back in the classrooms again.
 - d. 2009/2010 PTO Officers

Tammy Petersen reported that nominations will occur at the next PTO meeting. We have potential candidates for Treasurer and Secretary. Discussion followed regarding misconceptions that folks seem to have about what PTO does (some folks think we set policy) and how many folks attend meetings (someone envisioned a room with 100 people in it!).

ACTION: Michelle Guertin will include number of meeting attendees in newsletter. When space is available, she will add info on our mission to correct misconceptions.

ACTION: Tammy Petersen and Sue Bennett will attend kindergarten orientation on April 30th at 6:00. Michelle will work to put a letter together for kindergarten orientation and new student packets explaining the PTO. Invitations (flyers?) for the picnic should also be handed out at the orientation.

e. 8th Grade Parent Committee

Tammy Petersen reported that the pasta dinner was successful, bringing in \$1,400. Another is scheduled for 5/1 with a silent auction. A Middle School dance is scheduled for 3/20.

f. Moonjars

Sue Weber provided information about this financial literacy tool: a piggy bank divided into three sections so that children can allot money for saving, spending, and sharing. Discussion centered on whether there was room for this great tool in the school. Concensus was to see if there could be a display at Middle School Math/Technology Night.

g. PTO Green Section of Newsletter

Sue Weber suggested that with Earth Day coming, we use the Green Tip space in the newsletter to encourage residents to do litter pick-up on their roads. She provided an article with a phone number to call to obtain Salem Green Trash Bags for that purpose.

ACTION: Michelle Guertin will use this for the April Green Tip.

4. Upcoming Events

a. Spring Book Fair

Moving forward. Deb Luck is working on the Reading Hall of Fame Certificates, but needs a file from Eileen.

b. Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Scheduled for May 7th. Nikki Gullickson offered to do the necessary School Use Form. Jason Maziarz suggested using a culinary school to get free (we pay for cost of ingredients) catering. He has a contact.

ACTION: Michelle Guertin will put a notice in the newsletter.

ACTION: Jason Maziarz will talk to Tandy Acuna and Donna San Filipo regarding the possibility of using the culinary school.

c. Picnic

Tammy reported that a date of June 20th has been settled upon. The carnival will run from 11:30-4:00 with no admission fees. The Gym and Multi-Purpose rooms will be used in the event of rain, and bathrooms in the school will be used irrespective of weather. PTO will be asked to pick up the cost of hamburgers and hot dogs. The possible need for a shuttle from the town hall or four corners area was discussed if parking is expected to be a problem. Another planning meeting is scheduled for 4/2. At present there are 4-6 people working on this committee.

d. 8th Grade Citizenship Award

Location of paperwork for this award was discussed. Alison Cochrane probably had it, but Laurie Barberi likely has a copy.

ACTION: Michelle Guertin will check with Laurie Barberi and Tandy Acuna about the application paperwork. Also she'll ask Tandy about the pin.

d. 2009-2010 Fundraising

One suggestion we've had for fundraising is Cow Patty Bingo (Bovine Roulette?). Jennifer Pletcher knows of an organization in Pennsylvania that grosses \$30,000 from such an event. They then offer 1/3 of that gross as the prize and keep the other 2/3 for their organization. Contestants purchase squares of a grid on the playing field for \$10 each and then the waiting begins. Someone has said they'd be willing to let the PTO borrow their cow for this. More discussion is required.

6. Next Meeting – April 28th, 2009 in an undisclosed location
Adjournment – 8:43pm