

SARAH ADAMS PTO MEETING

September 14, 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Carol Cramer called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance, stating that coming to a PTO meeting is another way of staying involved with the children. Carol then introduced the PTO Officers for the 2009-2010 school year:

Co-Presidents: Carol Cramer, Shelley Cooper
Co-Treasurers: Bobbie Carr, Gina Zanichelli
Secretary: Heidi Davis

She then introduced Mrs. Brongiel, Ms. Doczi, and Mrs. Doheny as this year's teacher representatives.

2009-2010 PTO Committee Chairs

The PTO Committee Chairs are as follows:

- Student Assistance Program – Carol Cramer, Kelley Belew
- Cultural/Fine Arts – OPEN
- Character Counts – Kim Gross
- Family Connections – Stacy Krebill, Kim Gross
- Hospitality – Jennifer Axelrood
- Buzz Book, Yearbook – Rachel Davis
- Room Parent Coordinators – Allie Miller, Kerri Wilson
- School Volunteers Coordinator – Cyndi Shannon
- School Supplies – Kim Gross
- Beautification – Vicki Frank
- Recess Equipment Coordinator – Jen Mueller
- Strongest Link – Julie Snyder, Kathy Keenan, Beth Mumbower
- Scouting Coordinators – Janell Morrison, Tammi Soloway
- Entertainment Books – Cyndi Shannon
- Gift Wrap – Jen Grinnip
- Labels & Box Tops – Connie Klett
- Restaurant Family Fun Nights – Tammi Soloway
- Spirit Wear – MaryAnn Heisterkamp
- Market Day – Kathy Nelson, Jean Medina
- Talent Show – Mia Hirschel
- Silent Auction – OPEN
- Book Fairs – Sharon Savage, Carrie Neeson
- Book Swap – Kristi Givens
- Fall Fest (Oct) – Gina Zanichelli
- Orbit Skate (Jan) – Strongest Link Committee
- Science Night (Feb) – Janell Morrison
- Bingo Night (March) – Kim Gross, Megan Bajor
- Fun Fair (April) – OPEN
- Field Days – Gina Zanichelli, Patti Dolatowski

Carol went on to say that while these are the Committee Chairs, every parent is part of the Sarah Adams PTO. No committee chair is left to do the job on their own, the PTO is a team effort.

A motion to approve the 2009-2010 PTO Committee was made by Hilary Schultz, and seconded by Jean Medina. All unanimously agreed.

PTO By-Laws

Carol explained the PTO by-laws and encouraged everyone in attendance to familiarize themselves with them. They are always a “work in progress”, and will change periodically. The current by-laws were voted on in June, and a current copy can also be found on the school website. If there are any questions or concerns regarding the by-laws, there can be a special meeting to address those issues. The by-laws will again be voted on at the October PTO meeting.

Joanie’s Closet

Shelley Cooper discussed the possibility of Sarah Adams joining with the other District 95 schools to participate in Joanie’s Closet. This is a program similar to Family Connections, in that it provides for district children in need (i.e. clothing, food, backpacks, etc.). Joanie’s Closet is currently in place at Mae Whitney, where it is funded separately from the PTO. The district is going to possibly make this program district-wide.

- *Where will the items be stored?* This will be answered when it is determined if all of the schools will be participating.
- *Would it take away from Family Connections at Sarah Adams?* The program would replace the Family Connections program, but would work the same.
- *Would it require someone from the school to be part of the program?* There would be a liaison from each school.
- *What about confidentiality?* Confidentiality is extremely important.
- *Can someone from Joanie’s Closet come and speak at the next PTO meeting?* Yes, that is a possibility that Carol and Shelley will look into.

Concerns were raised about being able to provide for the specific needs of Sarah Adams students if the program was moved to a district level. The Family Connections committee knows the needs of the Sarah Adams students on a local level; whereas the district may not provide what the students here need. Requests for assistance could also take longer when dealing on the district level.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Heidi Davis provided copies of the May and June PTO minutes. After review, Jean Medina made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Bobbie Carr and unanimously agreed upon.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bobbie Carr went over the proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year. This year has a large carry-over of funds. At the time of the meeting, there was no Silent Auction Chairperson, so the possibility of holding some funds back was discussed. Bobbie also explained teacher grants and how the program works. The teachers are not given monetary grants, but rather supplies to further their classroom instruction. Kim Gross made a motion to approve the budget, and was seconded by Shelley Cooper. The motion was unanimous.

TEACHER'S REPORT:

Thank you for the gift and welcome from the PTO. The teachers appreciate all that the PTO does for them.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mrs. Mall welcomed everyone back to the new school year. She mentioned that the focus of the district and our new superintendent is the district mission statement, which states:

The mission of Community Unit School District 95 is to inspire all students to be passionate, continuous learners and to prepare them with the skills to achieve their goals and flourish as responsible, caring citizens in a global community.

Based upon that mission statement, a master schedule was created, asking the questions: Is this good for the children? Does it take into account their best interests? Does it promote learning? Each grade level has dedicated time for reading, math and specials. The teachers will have common planning times amongst the grade levels.

A new time block added to this year's schedule is called Intervention/Enrichment. This is a dedicated time to help in those areas where a student may have learning gaps, as well as to challenge those students who are ahead. The plan is to catch these learning gaps while in the early grades so that the students are not falling behind by third grade and beyond.

Kindergarten is not factored into the intervention/enrichment block, as the reading specialists work in all of the kindergarten classrooms for 15 minutes a day to work on pre-literacy skills.

There is also a new Social Studies curriculum. Some materials are still forthcoming, but the teachers are excited about the new curriculum and how it will work for the students.

A new "First Day Assembly" will be held the first school day of each month to kick off the Character Counts trait for that month. This assembly is different than the Cultural Arts assemblies in that the specific purpose of the First Day assembly is to rally the students to be proactive about character education. They will be approximately 15 minutes long, and the students should wear their Character Counts t-shirts on those days. Teachers should be communicating this to the students to help them remember.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Shelley Cooper reported that there are still some very important openings in the PTO committees:

Silent Auction (note: This committee has been filled as of 9/15/09)
Fun Fair
Donations committee
Cultural Arts (note: This committee has been filled as of 9/15/09)
Vice President – This by far is the biggest need yet to be filled. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Vice President, please speak with Carol or Shelley.

Shelley then passed around a sign-up sheet for those who would like to help with PTO committees.

Room Parent Volunteers

Kerri Wilson represented the committee and said the Head Room Parent volunteer meeting is Thursday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. in Room 7 at the Ela Library. Allie Miller will be the contact person for grades K-2, and Kerri will be the contact person for grades 3-5. Kerri also stated that the room parents volunteered at Meet the Principal Day in August.

Gift Wrap

The gift wrap fundraiser catalogs will go home on September 24th, and the sale will run through October 5th. The items ordered will be delivered by November 9th. Jen Grinnip reported that this year we have changed companies to All-American Fundraisers, which is a part of the company used for Fun Fair.

Restaurant Family Fun Nights

Tammi Soloway reported that the first restaurant family fun night will be Monday, September 21st at Culver's in Lake Zurich from 5-8p.m. Scoopie will be making an appearance, and the class with the most student turn-out will have an ice cream party from Culvers! If there is good representation from our school, Culver's will increase the percentage donated for the next restaurant night. The next restaurant night will be in November, and then January, March and May.

Book Fair

As previously reported, we opted to take the profits in Scholastic Rewards rather than cash, which netted us approximately \$6,000 from last year. The library received \$1,700 for listening centers, two complete sets of Caudill Award books, and DVDs, audio books, etc. We then purchased three more listening centers, supported those teachers making grade level changes this year, and bought *Scholastic News* for K-3 through 2011. The spring Book Fair was a Buy One, Get One. Over \$5,000 was deposited from that book fair.

The Fall Book Fair is scheduled for October 21st through October 23rd. Set up will be on October 20th, which is an early release day. The theme of this Book Fair is "Destinations Around the World". Please consider volunteering, as many people will be needed to help!

Strongest Link

Kathy Keenan introduced the Strongest Link team, and explained that Strongest Link is an after school club for 3rd through 5th graders, with a focus on volunteering in the school and the community. Strongest Link meets once per month. Last year's projects were Pennies for Pads, Project Linus, collecting canned goods, etc.

The first meeting this year will be on October 8th. They are asking for more parent volunteers this year to help with the meetings. At the first meeting, team building games will be played to help the students get to know one another. The November project will be a hat and mitten collection, and an indoor garage sale to donate the profits to Toys for Tots. Strongest Link may also possibly set up a table at school events, such as Book Fair.

Some concern was raised about limiting the enrollment. Kathy responded that they haven't reached capacity yet and will see how many students respond. The reason for possibly limiting enrollment is partially due to the limited space available to hold the meetings.

Scouts

Janell Morrison reported on the Cub Scouts. It is not too late to join the Cub Scouts. Coming up is the family campout, where the Lake County Astronomical Society will be coming with telescopes. Some future outings are a corn maze, sleeping in a cave with bats, a museum trip. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Lori Clancy.

Tammi Soloway reported on the Girl Scouts. September 18th is the kick off for all grade levels. The kindergarten troop is up and running.

Student Assistance Program

The SAP needs volunteers. If interested, please contact Kelley Belew.

Hospitality

Volunteers are needed to help with breakfast for Book Fair, as well as to help provide dinner for the teachers during conferences in November.

Buzz Book

The Buzz Book is in progress and will be going home soon.

Box Tops/Labels

Last year we collected over \$1,500. Ask your neighbors to save them for you!

Entertainment Book

The sale is over on September 18th.

Spirit Wear

The Spirit Wear sale will end on September 18th. The orders will be delivered in mid-October.

The next PTO meeting will be October 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Carol thanked everyone for attending and dismissed the meeting.