

Seth Paine PTO Meeting
Monday, August 31st, 2009
7:00 pm in the LMC

MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. Welcome – Sandy Tassi

2. Roll Call taken from Sign-In – Melinda Armbruster

Present: Anderson, Andrasco, Armbruster, Baltes, Bertrand, Brawley, Burke, Cardona, Cotton, Frank, Garite, Gates, Gwost, Kipperman, Krasavage, Maas, Marciniak, McCurley, O'Connor, O'Gara, Pelczynski, Perkowitz, Richards, Shapiro, Short, Slaughter, Smith, Tassi, Theys-Dice, Washburn, Weber.

3. Approval of Past Minutes – Melinda Armbruster

Motion to approve the May 2009 minutes was made by: Pam Smith

Seconded by: Kari Garite

Motion carried.

4. Presidents' Report – Sandy Tassi

- A. PTO presidents haven't met yet, so no report from that.
- B. Executive Board met to discuss budget. Well go into detail later tonight with Sue's report.
- C. The PTO copy code is 0011, follow instruction on the machine.
- D. December 2nd, we've reserved the party room at Oregano's for our Holiday Outing.
- E. Thanks for taking over the empty Book Fair positions – Beth Slaughter, Dana Anderson, Melinda Armbruster.
- F. Thanks to everyone who orders through Market Day, this really helps the PTO!
- G. Audra Botwin and Pam Bandel will be our 4th grade Art Parents.
- H. Buzz Book Changes – to be discussed later in the meeting.
- I. Spring Plant Sales – pickup date changed to May 14th, instead of May 7th.

5. Principal's Report – Cameron Shapiro

- 1. Welcome to the new year! We have some faculty changes concerning the staff at Seth Paine:
 - a. Kdg—Samantha Fletcher
 - b. 1st grade—Suzanne Weider
 - c. 2nd grade—Sue Lindquist, Sue Schaser, Nancy Mulder, Carolyn Guilford, Marissa Thomas
 - d. 4th grade—Diane Snyder
 - e. Gifted—Melissa Black
 - f. Special Ed.—Tricia Neenan
 - g. PE—Ruth Olsen
 - h. LMC—Linda Casady
 - i. ELL—Dara Ury
 - j. Speech—Amber Price
 - Change in Assignment
 - k. Mary Beth Mirock—gifted to 2nd grade
 - l. Leslie Grode—Band to Music/Band
 - m. Patti Sima—0.5 reading to 0.2 reading
 - n. Gretchen Erstad—1.0 music/chorus to 0.3 music/chorus
- 2. **Continuing building schedule** – grades 1-5 have a 1 hour reading block and a 1 hour intervention block. Grades 3-5 have a math block as well. The most important way that this impacts most children is

that there is special time set aside in each day where children can get pulled and not be held accountable for homework or what they are missing.

3. **Paper** – As you may already know, paper is a large expense and we are trying to come up with ways as a staff to save. For our PTO, I am fine with providing a box to get us started and then offer our price to our PTO through Diana for further paper needs.
4. **SIGN Program** – Continuing this year. Accommodation for PTO chairs – we are willing to send out extra emails or attach flyers for special events directly to emails per your request. We will be using the school messenger email addresses. At Back to School Night I will be attempting to retrieve about 85 more email addresses to complete our school list.
5. **Reminder** – We have 17 tables & about 220 chairs for events that are free of charge. Anything above and beyond this, the District will charge the PTO's for usage. Same for custodial services during the weekend.
6. **Reminder** – MAP testing Sept. 8 – 21. Individual teachers should be sending out individual testing schedules. Results will be sent home to parents at the end of the testing window (mid-Oct). Note – results show cumulative results. Change this year...we are testing only Math and Reading, not the Language Usage test.
7. **ISAT results** are in and we have done fairly well. We went up as a building in the area of Math and 5th grade writing.
8. **Dates to remember**—Back to School Night—Sept. 3rd @ 7PM, Picture day Tuesday, Sept. 16th
9. **Total Funding Requests** = \$967 + a possible \$300 after fundraising efforts
 - **Rebecca Caudill / Monarch Books for Library** – In the past several years, Ms. Troyer in our library has requested and been granted dollars for purchasing these award winning books. Last year she received \$650 and before that greater amounts. In these economic times, Mrs. Troyer and I have spoke about this and have agreed that she would still love some additional funding for these books. If the PTO would be willing to consider this grant after the fundraising efforts in September and October to donate ~\$300 to the library, we feel that would be sufficient in bring in some of these new titles.
 - **Math Contest** – The **Math Olympiad** is a problem solving contests that teachers use to help teach and promote problem solving skills in their classrooms. It offers another option for teachers to differentiate for kids who excel in math. **Total Estimated Cost** = Math Olympiad = gr. 4 & 5 Math Replacement ~\$89)
 - **Playground Equipment** – We are in desperate need of some new balls, jump ropes, etc. We also have a broken cart with sharp edges that is need of replacement.
 - i. **Playground balls** - \$25 for 6
 - ii. **Basketballs** - \$45 for 6
 - iii. **Footballs** – \$48 for 3 youth & 3 junior
 - iv. **Soccerballs** - \$51 for 3 (size 4) and 3 (size 5)
 - v. **Jump Ropes** - \$24 for 6 long jump ropes
 - vi. **Ball cart** - \$214 to hold everything

Total = \$407 + Shipping (17%) \$70 = **\$477**

(NOTE: After the meeting, we received a generous donation from a parent-owned business which will cover the playground equipment.)
 - **New Teacher Grants** - **\$200** each for our 2 brand new teachers. Rather than giving every staff member a PTO gift now, like we have done in the past, I propose that the rest of our staff will be given their PTO grant (if the funds are available) mid-year as a “holiday bonus”. This will give them an opportunity to replenish used supplies.
 - **Continued Technology** – I would really love to continue building more technological opportunities for our students in the building. My goal is to have overhead LCD projectors in every classroom and enough of the Interwrite tablets in the building for all to use. I would like to discuss with the PTO board about our future fundraising and events to how best allocate our fundraising efforts to achieve this goal. (~\$1000 per classroom)

6. Treasurer's Report – Sue McCurley

Sue reviewed the 2009-2010 budget (which was handed out at the meeting) for the upcoming year.

- She reminded us that in theory the budget should balance at \$0 at the end of each year because we are a non-profit. Not all of the numbers from last year are final yet. Since we have had successful fundraisers over the past year, we actually have some money with which to begin the year. This is helpful for the events held early in the year, before this year's fundraising begins. This year we have to fund \$1,800 for Revolutionary War Days in the Fall instead of in the Spring as in years past.
- Regarding Mr. Shapiro's funding requests, we need to take a closer look at the budget. This year is particularly tight budget year for a variety of reasons. As a result, we've had to cut back on Grant Program until later this year.

Motion to approve Budget: Michelle Gates

Seconded by: Dana Anderson

Motion carried.

Be sure to check the copy room for check request forms for reimbursements.

We also need a Treasurer for next year if anyone might be interested.

6. Teachers' Report – Kathleen Brawley and Nancy Gwost

Thank you all; we're proud to be a part of this organization. Many thanks for the luncheon, PTO-purchased magazines, and paint for the kindergarten room.

7. Freaky Friday/Spooky Saturday – Amy O'Connor

Freaky Friday will be on October 16th and is a drop-off event for the 4th and 5th graders. Spooky Saturday will be October 17th but is not a drop-off event. As always, we're looking for volunteers!

8. Grant Committee – Linda Pelczynski

We recommend approving grants (\$200 ea.) for the two new teachers and \$89 for Math Olympiad.

Motion to approve – Kari Garite

Second – Debbie Theys-Dice

Motion Carried

9. Room Parents / Copy Parents – Kelly Andrasco / Alexis Weber

Volunteer forms went out the first week of school and we've gotten a good response. Teachers should know who their copy parent is in the next week or so.

10. Environment/Beautification – Melinda Armbruster

In about a month, we'll be doing Fall Cleanup and will be seeking volunteers. Suggestions for volunteers included Cub Scouts, MSN students, and High School NHS members.

11. Cultural Arts – Sandy Tassi

We're working on this currently. So far, we have December 18th booked with Face-to-Face productions. Need parent volunteers.

12. Family Events – Colleen Bertrand

In the process of scheduling restaurant nights. Bellaluke's will be in February this year. Also, Bingo is on the calendar for September 30th.

13. Innisbrook - Ellen Krasavage

In spite of everything last year, we did better than expected. This year the sale will be 3 weekends which may also help. Ordering has been simplified so that students can go online to place orders. Pickup will be during parent teacher conferences.

14. Entertainment Books – Beth Slaughter

Sell! Sell! Sell! St. Francis and Spencer Loomis aren't selling these this year. Just a note, the Dominick's coupons alone pay for the book.

15. Your Trash/Our Treasure – Kris Frank/Sue Richards

We're getting the contest dates worked out. We won't be doing Nestle's "Go Play" this year. Mention these programs to anyone you know since every little bit helps.

17. Old Business: Sandy Tassi

- We'll try to keep meetings to one hour.
- Let's be as paperless as possible this year. Hopefully, the Buzz Book will be available online.

18. New Business:

January 29th Cultural Celebration - (Sandy Tassi) May Whitney raises about \$5,000 with their cultural celebration. We're looking for people to head this up. The Drop-n-Shop Movie Night should help us recoup profit lost from Seasonal Celebration. There will be a gift shop available at the Movie Night. Ideas for this have included ethnic foods, dances, crafts. Anyone with ideas, please see Sandy.

Revolutionary War Days – (Michelle Gates) Moved to October 1st based on changes in the students' curriculum. Contact Michelle if you're interested in observing this, it's really a great presentation.

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Holly Cardona

Seconded: Debbie Theys-Dice

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melinda Armbruster