

Minutes: General PTO Meeting
Fairview Elementary School
September 29, 2009

Executive Board Members present: Kelly O'Brien, Valerie DeMatteo, Jim Downing, Sheryl Fallon, Betty McCarty and Jennifer Cimmino. Absent: Lisa Johnson.

Principal, Mr. Kirkpatrick and two teacher attendees: Mrs. Arvanitis and Mrs. Kirchner were also present.

Call to Order at 7:05pm.

Kelly O'Brien welcomed parents and reported on Old Business:

-**Back to School Night** magnet and notebook sales raised 600 dollars.

-**PTO membership drive**: under way and Jen O'Brien is following up to hopefully get 100% membership from the Fairview families. Participating families will be issued a Fairview Family school directory when available.

-**New Parent Tea**- held on Sept. 18th Seagal Anselmo Moses reported on its success and interest by its over 25 attendees.

-**Electronic Mail List**- explained and reported on by Stephanie DeBari. It would allow email contact in case of school closures and would replace the early morning phone chain. Early dismissal announcements would continue to be done via phone contact.

-**Library Renovation** was reported on by Mr. Kirkpatrick. The old library is now a 2nd grade classroom. The new library will be on the second floor. Fairview is waiting on final approval from the Department of Education. Bookcases are being built off-site. Library "on-a-cart" will be started sometime in October where age appropriate books will be brought in to the classes.

New Business:

- **PTO Committee Reports:**

Treasurer: Jim Downing- handouts were reviewed from this and last years budget.

- Sheryl Fallon reported that all committees have been staffed and now chair people. We are very thankful to everyone who volunteered to chair committees for the 2009-2010 school year.

- Kelly O'Brien thanked everyone for their support and encouraged families to "pick and choose" fundraisers rather than feeling burdened financially to respond to all.

- **PIC report** by Colleen Ferrell: reminded everyone that the minutes from the PIC meeting can be found on line. The stimulus funds received were put to use implementing 14 full day kindergarten classes in the district. The "It's OK to be Different" program will be tied into the curriculum starting in Kindergarten. This program has been in some schools but will now be starting for all kindergarteners. The program teaches tolerance and understanding for others with disabilities. The PIC report also said that the high schools are going through a redesign with more group work focus. The Summer reading Program was considered a success. 73 students started and 69 completed the program. The Board plans to notify parents earlier in the spring if their child could benefit from this program.

- **Board of Ed** rep Dawn Lehotsky was absent. Updates will be posted on the website.

- **Market Day**: Seagal Anselmo Moses reported a good response to our first monthly market day.

- **Book Fair**- Oct 13,14 and 15th. Volunteers are needed for both set up (13th AM) and breakdown (15th -12noon) Contact Seagal Anselmo Moses or Jocelyn Bragg.

- **Great Race**: applications are coming in slowly. Parents are reminded that there is a PSP gift raffle as an incentive. The deadline is Oct. 15th to participate in the incentives.

- **Spiritwear**: Barbara Cassin reported that the sale will begin in November with orders coming in time for the holiday break. Spiritwear is a great way to support our school and spread school spirit.

- **Mum Sale**: (Oct 6 and 7th) Great response to the pre order sale. Volunteers are needed to set up on Oct 6th early in the morning.

- **Halloween Family Fun Night**: (Oct 23rd) Games and prizes will be similar to last year. Many volunteers are needed to make this a great family event. See Jen O'Brien or Kelly Pezzano.

- **Fairview Play-** (Dec 3rd and 4th) this year the showcase will be “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”. Notification of try outs open to all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will be going home soon. Volunteers are needed on all levels from set decoration to the night of the play.
- **Million Minute Reading Challenge-** this new program will be replacing the RIF reading program. The children will be encouraged to read (or be read to) and record their minutes over a months time. Logs will be collected and our school goal will be to read One Million Minutes as a school this year.
- **Website:** the website has been updated. The PTO Pages contain calendars and announcements and even a virtual suggestion box. There is a great need for website help.

Principal's Update: Mr. Kirkpatrick

- Welcomed the two teacher reps, Mrs. Kirchner and Mrs. Arvanitis and reported that he hopes to have teachers present to represent the staff at each PTO general meeting.
- **Walkathon:** this school fundraiser replaced the magazine sales that the school used yearly to do direct updates. It is a school run fundraiser that can generate school spirit and a fitness focus. The funds raised plan to be used to help update the Owls Nest (All Purpose Room). Donations of lightly worn Fairview t-shirts are requested in the office for new students.
- Mr. Kirkpatrick thanked the Beautification Committee and local cub scouts for the work done on the school grounds. The older playground pieces were painted to match the newer pieces.
- **Website:** In Jan or Feb, Fairview has plans to start “going green”. Plans for a “virtual backpack” are under way. Parents will be able to access this weekly to obtain and download any new announcements. Hard copies will always be available in the main office.
- **DRA (Development Reading Assessment)** – all students are given a DRA number after an assessment of their reading level. This number is available from the teacher and can be discussed at during the fall conferences in November.

Called to end at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
 Jennifer Cimmino
 PTO secretary