

New Monmouth PTA

General Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Karen Mastria at 7:30 p.m.

Recording Secretary (Marlaina Triolo)

The minutes were passed out from January 22, 2008 and accepted for file by Marianne Ruane and Sally Hennessy.

Treasurer's Report

The report was read and accepted for file by Marianne Ruane and Sally Hennessy.

President's report (Karen Mastria)

No report.

1st Vice President (Kyle Robbins)

Gertrude Hawk is doing really well. We have about \$7500 in sales so far and half of that goes to PTA. Delivery for Gertrude Hawk will be Tuesday, March 11, from 10 am until 2 pm. If anyone interested in volunteering to help out that day, it would be greatly appreciated. Pick up after school that evening will be at the PTA meeting.

2nd Vice President (Doris Finn)

Emergency Phone Number Lists are still needed from Head Class Parents. Please get those lists back ASAP!! Also, still looking for a Book Fair volunteer. Please let us know if you are interested.

Corresponding Secretary (Gina Cavanagh)

The PTA sent out the following correspondence:

- Birthday cards to Mrs. S. Bisgrove, Mr. McNeil, Nurse Gavin, Miss Donna, Ann Fox (Reading Specialist) Christine Merlino (Reading Specialist) and Reyna Spizz (Reading Specialist)

The PTA received the following correspondence:

- Thank you card from Mr. Mike for our Get Well card

The following Permits were filled:

- Buildings Use Permit for Thorne for Variety Show and rehearsal (was approved)
- New Monmouth for rehearsals for Variety Show

Principal's Report

Thank you for the Assembly that we had on February 19. It was a great program honoring Black History Month. The children got a great Hip Hop show and enjoyed it very much.

Jump Rope for Heart will be held on February 29, 2008.

We started a collaboration with the local YMCA. It is an after school club to provide a variety of activities. The Winter / Spring schedule will be coming home with the children soon and will give details on the following programs: Kindergarten thru 2nd Grade will be offered a Karate program, 3rd Grade thru 5th Grade will be offered a Philanthropy Club.

We have a great focus this year on literacy both with the Writers Workshop and on increasing the amount of guided reading materials that the children have access to in the classroom. I was able to use part of our grant to use another grant that would double any money spent on books. For example, I spent \$600 and received \$1200 worth of books. However, they are all different levels and need to be categorized. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with this project, please let us know. Volunteers will be needed both during school hours and

after school hours. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please let Doris Finn know if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.

NJ ASK Testing for Third and Fourth Graders will be March 10th thru 14th. A parent / student brochure will be going home for your review. Also at the end of February, Third Graders will be taking Cognitive Tests. This will determine eligibility for Gifted and Talented services. There is a change in how these services will be delivered into the classroom.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PIC / BOE

The BOE meeting was held on January 23, 2008. This meeting covered the new curriculum changes. A copy of this report is available upon request.

Relay for Life

Doris Finn is our PTA Team Captain. A Kick Off Meeting was held. It was great. A Captains meeting will be held on March 12. Fundraising opportunities are available for this event similar to those for Jump Rope for Heart. There are other fundraising techniques that were brought to mind at the meeting. For example, we can have a "Hat Day". Although children are not allowed to wear a hat to school, on "Hat Day", they can donate \$1.00 and can wear their hat during school hours. It is an easy way to raise money and the children would love it. There is also an opportunity to have a "Bake Sale" at the Relay event. Sign up information will be available after the March 12 meeting.

Website

Budget Awareness Link is available on Website. The website is also updated with Jump Rope for Heart and Science Share. Also, all previous PTA Meeting Agendas and PTA Meeting Minutes are available for review.

School Play

Tentatively reserved November. A motion was made and accepted to send in \$500 to Better Than Broadway Productions as a deposit for next year. The motion was accepted by Marianne Ruane and Sally Hennessy.

Box Top

The child that gets the most Box Tops receives a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift certificate and the class with the most gets an ice cream party. Winners will be determined soon.

Variety Show

Parent In Charge meeting went well. Rehearsals will start in March. Dress Rehearsal will be April 17 and the Show is on April 18.

Blood Drive

We had a wonderful turnout. Twenty Six volunteers donated and an additional 20 tried to donate but could not for various reasons. Thank you all.

Science Share

We are raffling off an IPOD for who ever signs up for this event to be held in March.

Fifth Grade Committee

Currently working on yearbook and are going to be more expensive than last year. Things are going great.

OLD BUSINESS

Baskets need to be in for the fundraising event for Lindsay Capatasto. Also, tickets are still available to attend the event. It will be held on March 14 at St. Mary's.

NEW BUSINESS

Bottle Cappers are looking for additional funding and are going back to the Elementary Schools to get money. They do not want their program to have to end. It is a wonderful program to keep your children off drugs and alcohol. They send a powerful message about peer pressure and strong leadership. A motion was made to donate \$200 to the Bottle Cappers. It was accepted by Marianne Ruane and Sally Hennessy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.