

# New Monmouth PTA

## General Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2008

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

### **Recording Secretary (Marlaina Triolo)**

The minutes were passed out from November 14, 2007 and accepted for file.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The report was read and accepted for file.

### **President's report (Karen Mastria)**

No report.

### **1st Vice President (Kyle Robbins)**

The PTA made \$368.50 from Family Portrait night, \$3,600 from Genevive's and \$2000 from KidsStuff Books. Kidstuff books will be done differently next year. They will have to be ordered because so many books were returned this year unwanted. Gertude Hawk starts next week.

### **2nd Vice President (Doris Finn)**

Emergency Phone Number Lists are still needed from Head Class Parents. Please get those lists back ASAP!!

### **Corresponding Secretary (Gina Cavanagh)**

The PTA received and sent out the following:

- Sent Christmas gifts to and received thank you cards from Mrs. Chadwick, Miss Donna, Miss Sue, the Custodians and School Nurses
- Sent flowers and Get Well card to Nurse Ciprich
- Sent Get Well flowers and received a thank you from Dorothy Pepi
- Received thank you cards from Jamie Kornacewicz and Mrs. Dredger for the new curtains
- Congratulations card to Becky Chrzan on the birth of her baby
- Birthday cards to Mr. Abbott and Miss Sue
- Get Well card to Mr. Mike
- Received a nice letter from Mrs. Chadwick for the new curtains

### **Principal's Report**

The Budget Awareness Committee is important for getting our school budget passed. There is now a new aspect of it with the passing of the most recent school funding legislation. The new program will determine how much money each school district gets and takes into consideration the relative property values as well as the relative wealth of the district. Middletown scores highly in comparison to other school districts in both regards and because of that we are not qualified for any additional funds over our level of funds we have received in the past. The Governor did make a blanket of 2% for any district that was not qualified for additional funding, but it is not something that will happen from year to year. Another thing that is going to impact our district is the fact that funding for Special Education programs is going to be held to a State average of percentage of students who are Special Education Classified. It will be up to Middletown to make up the difference between the State average of 14% and our average of 18%. Therefore getting the budget passed this year is very important. The Budget Awareness Committee is looking for anyone who feels they would like to volunteer and get involved.

Mrs. Chadwick handed out a paper with information about "VOICES".

Governors Teachers Recognition Program is looking for parents to participate on a Selection Committee. This committee will help with making the final selections of the "recognized teacher of the year" in each building.

A form was given to anyone interested in participating. A National Nominations form was also handed out for any parent interested in nominating a certain teacher for this honor.

The buzzer at the front door is for security purposes. Visitors are now being asked their names and their purpose before gaining access into the school. Sorry for any inconvenience, but know it is for the safety of our students and staff.

Lunch is becoming a big issue at our school. Please try at home to help organize the ordering process by writing down their lunch selections on their tickets each day. This may save time in the lunchroom. Make sure your child's lunch selection is clear and that he or she knows what they are going to have that particular day. Anything you can do at home to help will be greatly appreciated.

All fundraisers now have to be district approved. There is a form needed for every event that must be submitted for approval. Any food or drink sold must be pre-packaged and a temporary Food Handlers Permit from the Health Department must be obtained for the event.

Office Depot has a program that they will send 5% of your purchases back to the school. If anybody shops there or has a small business, please use New Monmouth School's ID # 70067053 for future purchases. It is greatly appreciated. TARGET has a charge card program and they give back a % of purchases made when New Monmouth School is selected as recipient. Please keep this in mind as well when you are using your Target Charge Card!

In November, we discussed the \$2000 donation from the Middletown Education Foundation. We intended to use that donation to create books that the children could write for themselves and the parents could buy as keepsakes. However, a more important goal has surfaced recently. We need to find materials to support the guided reading that we are doing in association with the diagnostic reading assessment program at our school. Having books that are at a child's exact instructional and independent level is vital to the success of the program. The faculty is recommending that we spend a significant portion of our funds building our library with these specific reading materials.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PIC / BOE**

The PIC meeting was on December 4, 2007. Two BOE meetings were held on November 20 and December 19, 2007. A copy of both reports are available upon request.

### **Relay for Life**

The PTA has decided to have a New Monmouth PTA Team with Doris Finn as our leader. Kickoff meeting is February 7 at St. Mary's. Please get involved and bring the kids!

### **Website**

Going strong!

### **Market Day**

New fundraising opportunity will be available come March.

### **School Play**

Went great!

### **Box Top**

We made \$457 so far and will be submitting more Box Tops in March. The child that get the most Box Tops receives a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift certificate and the class with the most gets an ice cream party.

### **School Spirit**

Great!

### **Variety Show**

The show will be held April 18, 2008. Kristine MacKay is in charge and will be having a meeting on Tuesday, February 19 before the PTA meeting.

### **Blood Drive**

Monday, February 11, 2008 3-7pm

**Jump Rope for Heart**

Will be held on February 29, 2008. Class mothers will help take care of the water and snacks.

**Fifth Grade Committee**

Currently working on yearbook. Things are going great.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Kindergarten orientation is all set.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Good Shepard Christian Store is donating 10% of any New Monmouth or Thorne Middle School Communion or Confirmation purchase. Just mention New Monmouth or Thorne School and the donation will be made back.

A new chairperson is needed for Book Fair come September. Two people are needed for the job, so if you have a friend and want to get involved please let us know.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**