

# New Monmouth PTA

## General Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

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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 June 4, 2007 and accepted for file by Sally Hennessy and Annmarie Marano.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The report was read and accepted for file by Laura Sorce and Dorothy Pepi.

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

Welcome everyone old and new! Introduced the new executive board. Goal is to get the teachers, parents and students to work together to make it a great year. Reminder to give e-mail address to Marlaina to keep parents informed and in-touch. President's council is changing some things. Great Race is October 20, 2007. No calendars available this year. Wellness Committee is looking for volunteers to help with nutrition awareness. This is a Board of Education committee not a New Monmouth Committee. Anyone interested in representing New Monmouth School, please talk to Karen.

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

Fall is a busy time for fundraising. Genevieve wrapping paper catalogue is a great way to support your school. Kids Stuff books are coming soon. Picture Day is October 8. Any ideas for fundraising are welcome and greatly appreciated.

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

Committee volunteer sheets will be sent home this week. Chairpeople are needed for a few positions. BOE and PIC needs a chairperson to help coordinate volunteers to attend the meetings. The meetings will be a shared responsibility among the volunteers. Class parent forms will be sent home. Sally Hennessy needs a volunteer to help proof read the directory this year.

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

We received a thank-you for our generous gift to the Bottlecappers from Ginger Tatum, Treasurer. We received a thank-you for the retirement gift from Mrs. Ricemore, who also commended us on a perfect Fun Day last year. We received a thank-you from our "Teacher of the Year" Mrs. Thompson who put her gift from us to good use. We sent a sympathy card and gift to a family of New Monmouth for their loss. We received a thank-you from Mrs. Cusick for the Teacher's Breakfast. And lastly, we received a thank-you from Mrs. Thompson's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class last year for Fun Day last year. The thank-you was made by her class and was passed around for all to see.

Mrs. Dredger and Mrs. Roberts were then welcomed and introduced as part of our Teacher Rep program this year. Mrs. Roberts thanked the PTA for her picnic table and said it had already been put to good use with lunch bunch.

### **Principal's Report**

She introduced new staff members is very excited about the new curriculum initiatives this year. The Writers Workshop is already in full effect. We have more hands on science kits this year. DRA (Diagnostic Reading Assessment) is a finely tuned reading program that helps us precisely pinpoint the children's reading progress throughout the year. Our Reading Specialist is working to help train our teachers to use this DRA program. This program will take place in the classrooms and will begin in stages. The fourth and fifth graders who received lower scores on their state exams will be a part of the first stage.

Our academic goals were exceeded this year by a very high percentage due to the "No Child Left Behind" policy in our district.

New goals this year include improving writing skills, infusion of technology with a new laptop cart, and coordinated activities with the community to help stimulate academic growth. The first coordinated activity is at the Cultural Arts Center to display children's art projects.

Our security has been enhanced this year in two ways. First, every employee has their own key access to the front door and playground door. We are hoping to also have key access to the parking lot door as well in the near future. Second, the room numbers on the classrooms have been updated and changed. They had previously been randomly assigned. Now they are more organized and chronologically easier to find.

The parking lot issue was addressed and 40 new spots were applauded. The "F" spots are for faculty and should be respected.

Our new addition to the lunch program is water and is available to the children for a fee of \$3.25 for five tickets. Please send in exact change when buying lunch or water tickets.

Christine MacKay was thanked for her help with the website. Anything that may be important to New Monmouth School is available at the website.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Science Share**

This year will be moved up this year to Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

### **PIC / BOE**

Maryanne Ruane read and summarized the meeting held September 11, 2007. A copy of those minutes are available upon request. Personnel changes in the Board of Education have been made throughout the district. Teachers have been added at some levels to reduce class sizes. Leonardo, Bayview and High School South have had their parking lots expanded for extra parking as well as New Monmouth School. Parent concerns were the girls locker rooms at HHS and the need for trash cans around school areas. Budget awareness needs support.

### **Great Race**

This year will be held October 20, 2008 at HHS. Kyle is raffling off an IPOD and a \$25 iTunes gift card as an incentive to increase participation this year. Kyle cannot be there this year and would love somebody to volunteer and help.

### **Book Fair**

This year will be held on Back to School night. Hoping it will be a great turnout! Thank you for sending in your Book Fair mittens.

### **Market Day**

This is a monthly fundraiser and October is a great month for orders. See the website for additional information on order deadlines and dates for pick up!

Plant Sale

Fall mums sale is a pre-order fundraiser and is due by September 26 and a volunteer is needed for pick up day. Delivery time unknown at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Curtain motion was made and accepted to take the excess \$2,960 from the Enrichment Fund to purchase new front curtain for our stage. The color of the new curtain was shown at the meeting.

A motion was made and accepted to purchase a poster machine for \$4,000 by the PTA to donate to the school for the faculty and PTA members to use. The money will be taken from Enrichment and Educational Support which was left over from last year.

A motion was made and accepted to purchase a math "Class Room Jeopardy" game for each fourth grade classroom. The money will be taken from excess funds leftover from Educational Support and Assembly.

Budget

A copy of the budget was handed out for review. The PTA gave money to Science Share this year. Hospitality bins will be purchased for storage. A motion was made and accepted for the budget and its new changes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**YMCA Program**

Two new programs will be started at New Monmouth School this year. A Music Program will be offered to the Preschoolers and an Art Program will be offered to Kindergarten thru Second Graders. Twelve to fifteen children will be accepted to each group and the programs will each run for 8 weeks. The fee schedule will be from October 4 until December 6 and each club will meet for 1 hour a week on Thursday afternoons at 3:30 in the All Purpose Room. This is not a New Monmouth after school program. This is a YMCA program sponsored by New Monmouth School.

Christine MacKay and Darcy Hudak would like the website to be an agenda item at each meeting to discuss changes and additions each month.

Sally Hennessy is looking for help with the school directory.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**