

## Pleasant Avenue PTA Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 7, 2011 at 6:00pm

Attendees: Monica Poitras, Elena Willett, Rob DeLilli, Pamela Donohue, Nadeen Rizzo, Lisa VanAernem, Deb Ammann, Rachel Truckenmiller, Jennifer Spinnoble, Chris Lamori, Jeff Vivenzio, Michele Lake, Louise Carville

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to accept as written by Elena Willett, seconded by Lisa VanAernem.

**Treasurer's Report:** Monica Poitras highlighted that \$406 put in as a credit (but should have been entered as a debit) has been put back in as a debit. She also rewrote a check for \$26.50. Chris Lamori motioned to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Deb Ammann.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Thank you cards were received from Doug Dougherty and Larraina Carpenter for school board recognition gifts. A thank you card was received from the Warren Street PTA for helping with their open house.

**Central Council Update:** Sixth grade parents are needed to help with dance and a chair of the committee is still needed. Dance is the first Friday in June, contact Elena Willett if interested. Central Council discussed what PTAs are allowed to do and not allowed to do with PTA funds, especially around field trips. Classes could raise money for field trips, donate the money to the school and the school could write the check. Central Council also discussed PTA vs. PTO. To establish a PTO, the group would need to become a 501c3 non-profit which costs \$150 to set up. The next Central Council meeting is on November 30.

**Mr. DeLilli, Superintendent:** Mr. DeLilli is encouraging parents to reach out to our local state representatives to request that all school districts in the state receive an equitable share of state funding. There are big financial gaps between districts and those gaps need to be closed. A letter explaining the situation will be sent home with students. This year is the first year of a change in the New York State education standards. Changes in curriculum involve deeper learning on fewer objectives, focusing on ELA and math skills. Mr. DeLilli suggested one use for PTA money could be a school messenger system. It is a phone system that is capable of mass calls to parents. The cost is around \$4,000 the first year and somewhat less after that.

**Box Tops:** Nadeen Rizzo reported that the next submission date is in February. Discussion was held about possible classroom incentives or challenges.

**Membership Update:** No change.

Past Events

**Family Fun Fall Festival:** Successful day, Elena Willett reported that it was a great committee to work with and they would like to do more joint ventures with the three elementary schools. All schools contributed equally. Pumpkins done by the classrooms were great.

**School Pictures:** Went well, but too many volunteers. Do not need 6 volunteers on that day. Discussed date for next year, staff does not want pictures taken on a Monday or Friday.

#### Upcoming Events

**Reflections Deadline – Nov. 15:** A few entries, students are having a hard time understanding this year's theme of diversity.

**Bingo – Nov. 9:** Mr. Miller cannot attend, so need a new caller. Chris Lamori reported that everything else was ready to go.

**Holiday Parade – Nov. 18:** Mr. and Mrs. Hayes have put the float together. The theme is "How Pleasant Ave. Stole Christmas". Students should dress like Whoville characters and will be handing out mini-candy canes.

**Holiday Movie Night – Dec. 9, 6-8pm:** Chris Lamori and Jen Sponnoble will chair the event.

**SDM:** Mathematical Olympiad is available for students who received a "4" on last year's state assessment. Nature trail is open and several classes have used the trail.

**Principal's Report:** Parent Involvement Team is running homework club which started the first week of November. Homework club currently has 11 students.

**Open Discussion:** Mimeo hand-sets were approved and Monica will present the check to the school board at the next meeting, November 17. Filing of the 990 form has been completed.

Next meeting is December 5, 2011 at 6:00pm in the Pleasant Avenue library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Truckenmiller.