

Longfellow PTO Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, January 8, 2008

In Attendance: Nicole Cherbuliez, Linda Gervais, Nancy Keast, Jen Tabb, Bob Carroll, Barb Stoddard, Julie Finn, Bev Lawrence, Clare Hannan, Lori Bess Weldon, Tony Troxell, Alison Troxell, Kara Mathisen, Catharine Scruggs, Chris Bearce, Liane Topchick, Meg Rooks, Jen Judd-McGee, Dawn Carrigan. Sarah Maloney, John Thurston, Kelly Holmes, Lori Carlson, Jonathan Nolan

1. Mission Statement/Introductions

2. Treasurer's Report: Brian Segal has raised over \$1000 for boxtops. We've received more money from fundraiser. Our working funds are \$12,000. The 2nd page of the attached report is our budget progress (snapshot to date). If you have questions, please feel free to contact Barb.

3. Committee Updates - Dec. meeting motion passed to print updates on back of agenda for committees not needing floor time to have extra time for agenda items...

Cultural Enrich: Julie Finn - looking for a new chair next year. Julie will be stepping down. You don't need to have been on the committee before. If you know someone interested or are yourself, contact Julie. 5th graders missed "xmas carol" due to snow day. The committee is looking for alternatives....next meeting is set for Thurs. Jan. 17th, at 7pm in library.

Auction: Jen Judd-McGee...we are gearing up for the auction. We sent solicitation letters out last month and already have 30 items. Tonight we are sending around a sign-up sheet for committees. We need a lot of people to make this successful. At the February meeting the agenda will be abbreviated and each chair will break out w/committees to get things going. Barb reiterates how important this fundraiser is and Sarah says it is a great way to network and have friends join committees w/you. Jen Tabb hands out solicitation letters for anyone who might know a business that hasn't been hit up yet. John Thurston asked why we've changed venues. Jen and Linda explained why the venue has changed (feedback from families). Jonathan reports that he is trying to pull together the sponsorship for the auction this year - some bigger corporations have pulled out. He is looking for \$500 tax-deductible contributions - if you know any local companies in our community who might be interested..

Courtyard/Portland Ed. Partnership: Liz can't be here - update is on the back of the agenda. Dawn reports that twice a year Liz is asked to record donations - she is trying to gather that info. Dawn passes out forms for donations that might have been overlooked. Also, re: the fundraiser calendar is hanging in the hall - it's really nice. They are still available.

Public Issues: no report

library/book fair: on back

Programs: Michelle - trying to find date for bingo - talking w/Marge Queen in regards to the 5210 initiative to talk about healthy eating and living habits. Marge got a \$2500 grant to buy snowshoes. Marge and Liz are looking for other activities around this initiative.

Clubs/Classes - Cpring classes won't start until march. Note that the drama club will do play this spring; Naomi will send flyer home soon. It will be open to 3, 4, 5th grades and will be Alice in wonderland. There will be about 30 parts for kids and we plan to run it on Wednesdays from. 2-4 for about 12 weeks. We plan to use the Baptist church and the fee for each student will be \$50. We'd like to hire Moira (Driscoll) as well.

Linda would like anyone with thoughts on new updates to please share them with her.

4. Dawn Carrigan - (discussion about fundraising thoughts). First, a few updates about professional development time, by Lori Carlson and Kelly Holmes. (Kelly) we dedicate the early release day time to school improvement goals (see attached for more info). Dawn will be talking about these in the newsletter in the upcoming weeks. Maryann asks how the agenda's are developed for these meetings. Mrs. Carlson says that we review a lot in the spring and see what we need to have for goals in the fall. If people have questions - they can e-mail Lori or Kelly.

Dawn gives some history on PTO funding (see attached).

Dawn has gone back to 1998 to see how PTO monies were used in the past. Past meeting minutes show that monies has been used for both curricular and extracurricular items...parents used to represent teachers class by class. Dawn has changed that by taking input from teachers and then presenting it as a cohesive presentation of what the school most needed. Dawn reviews how we came about buying the math (trailblazers) curriculum. (see past notes for more discussions on this). The school needed a cohesive math curriculum. They piloted 3 programs for a year and resoundingly chose trailblazers. 2003 or 2004 we came to the PTO and asked for the money to buy the program, but there was a new edition coming out. So we asked the pto, explaining that we would have to buy the consumables for a few years. The new edition is out this year - we are buying it and will need less consumables from here on out. John asked about consumables - the kids have consumables that have come home - is that teacher by teacher? Dawn explained that we had to purchase those but don't have to buy them in the future.

Dawn feels strongly that the school committee will never penalize our school based on how our PTO spends it's monies. She explains that we suffer because we are not eligible for funding that other schools receive due to their demographic. Sarah has a question about the tech. position - was it a mandated position due to the portal and is that a mixed-message to the city that we are funding a mandated position - does this start an expectation? Dawn - it is not a mandated position - we were the only person w/out a technology person. other schools have reworked their budgets in other ways to get a tech

position. Dawn had surveyed staff - they wanted the technology up and running. Also, we were given new tech initiatives by the city - evaluation and power schools. Dawn proposed taking the stipend to add w/the school budget and ask the pto to fund the rest to have someone asses our computers and set up a system for troubleshooting. Why over nursing and library? We didn't know we would be getting that cut until the summer. Dawn recommended the social worker cut over the special ed cuts because special ed cuts would impact instructional learning. That was Dawn's recommendation. It's delicate and tricky because it involves personnel.

Sarah states she doesn't think it was a mistake to ask for and get that tech position. We have to try different things and ask for what we need. Sarah's anxiety is getting the money. Mrs. Lawrence has said that it's been great to have the computer technology person here. The kids are going to the computer lab which didn't happen last year. Kelly says Liz has been great teaching Kelly some of the equipment and software so she could use some internet sites for their unit on France. Mrs. Carlson said this is the first year she took her kids to the computer lab - using typing program - using math programs - learning how to save and retrieve items on the computer. Knowing Liz will help her has given her a lot of confidence.

5. Agenda Development: no new items

6. Parking Lot: no new items

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Rooks, Secretary