

**Longfellow School PTO Meeting**  
**October 2, 2007**

Members Present: Jen Judd-McGee, Linda Garvais, Jen Tabb, Barb Stodard, Meg Rooks, Dawn Carrigan, Cathy Hennigen, Sam McGee, Michele Butterfield, Terri Linehan, Michele Lawless, Erin Tosi, Willa Vennema, Liz Meahl, John Thurston, Sarah Maloney, Nancy Keast, Catherine Scruggs, Mark Ford, Jennifer Stanbro, Beth Sellers, Maryann Carroll, Ken Farber, April Erbe, Brenda Brush, Alison Troxell, Naomi Mermin, Nancy Gillis, Katherine Dow, Karen Stockman, Meg Handlin, Leticia Plate, Nancy Jordan Pierre Meahl, Leanne Topchick, Julie Finn

- 1) Introductions: PTO mission statement read and introductions made.
- 2) Dawn Carrigan: Dawn will be sending home MEA scores this week for students who took them. She stressed that these tests are designed to show progress among classes and grades and not individual achievement, although they do provide a glimpse. She also shared how happy she is at the progress that has been made at Longfellow schools as evidenced by these tests, especially in the area of math.
- 3) Treasurer's Report: Barb described briefly the little activity that has taken place this past month: we received a refund check for \$1000 from OM, and we paid for a new kiln (the old kiln broke last spring, the new kiln was purchased with left-over funds from several committees that will benefit from this purchase). Barb also mentioned that we will be moving funds into a new account with which will earn interest for us.
- 4) Committee Updates:
  - a) Library/Book Fair: Meg reported that plans are set for the November Book Fair which will take place on November 6-8<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with Longfellow Books and with visiting author Kevin Hawkes. Meg also reiterated the need for volunteers to shelve in the library.
  - b) Programs: Michele circulated a sign-up sheet for the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner which is scheduled for Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at Deering High School. Leanne offered the possibility of including a 50/50 raffle to raise money for a local charity.
  - c) Craft Night: Willa is looking for lots of help shopping and doing prep work for Craft Night. The date has not been set. A sign-up sheet was sent around.
  - d) Cultural Enrichment: Julie reported back that the first meeting was held and the committee has decided to break down the residencies into the following general groups: 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade/movement, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade/music, 4<sup>th</sup> grade/visual arts, 5<sup>th</sup> grade/drama. The two new art teachers, Melissa Maher and Allison Villari have expressed a willingness to tie in their work with this year's theme, which will center around environmental issues and sustainability (catchy name to follow). They also plan this year to have 4<sup>th</sup> graders work with MECA in February in March. Julie also mentioned that this committee is looking for someone who might be interested in heading up events for the courtyard. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 15 at 7pm in the library. All are welcome.
  - e) Auction: Jen Judd-McGee reported that this committee is looking for one more co-chair, preferably someone with database skills and/or room in their home to store auction items.

- f) Courtyard/Portland Educational Partnership: Liz is looking for someone to head up a concert in the courtyard for the fall. She thanked John Thurston for the new day lilies, irises, hostas and the japanese maple. Liz is still looking for people willing to water the garden in the mornings after drop-off. The first courtyard meeting will be on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the library. All are welcome. The fall workday in the courtyard will be on Thursday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 9am. In Partnership news, Liz thanked people for their patience as the new volunteer screening process moves forward. Most people are ready to go and can make classroom volunteer arrangements with their teachers. She also reminded all volunteers to sign-in in the front hallway.
  - g) Public Issues: Jonathan reported that the candidates for School Board will be at the Longfellow Gymnasium on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. City Council candidates will be at the Baptist Church on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - h) Clubs and Classes: Barb has been organizing the fall classes, which should begin the last week of October.
- 5) PTO Funding Priorities Discussion: This item was brought up as an Agenda Development issues last month by Michele Lawless. Linda began the conversation by giving some background on how PTO has spent money in the past. Dawn added to this conversation, noting that 7 years ago, the PTO averaged 4-5 people a meeting, made significantly less money, and that the Longfellow operating budget was larger than it is today. Since that time, there have been significant cuts to the operating budget, and the Longfellow staff has made requests to the PTO for operational-type funding. Meg clarified that this money is not part of the PTO's yearly budget, rather it is excess funds remaining at the end of each year which is voted on along with PTO-related requests. Leanne asked how the technology job came into being and Dawn gave some history on the technology situation at Longfellow which has led to this need (the technology job is being partially funded by a stipend the PTO voted on last spring). There was some discussion as to whether the money that PTO raises that ends up in the Longfellow operating budget makes us less eligible for city funds. Dawn assured people that this is not the case but also clarified that Longfellow has less of an operating budget than many other schools in the city because we receive less funding (as a result of our demographics). The conversation was ended due to time-constraints. Linda will work to see when and where this conversation could be continued.
- 6) Fall Fundraiser: Jen Judd-McGee reported that the art teachers have been working hard creating beautiful art work for the fall fundraiser "Original Works" (these pieces of art will be turned into magnets and parents will be able to order a large number of items incorporating their child's work). Kids will finish their work this week, Jen and Linda will send it in, and in two weeks parents will receive their magnets and catalogs. All items ordered should be received the first week of December, in plenty of time for the holidays. Leticia offered to sell some of her work on t-shirt at zazzle.com to help raise money for the PTO. Jen also mentioned possible upcoming fundraisers at Flatbreads and O'Naturals.
- 7) Thanksgiving Baskets: Jen and Linda are looking for volunteers to organize Thanksgiving baskets for families with hardships this season. Leanne and April volunteered.

- 8) Everyday Ways to Raise Money for Longfellow: In the interest of time, people were referred to the sheet available at the front table (see attached).
- 9) Agenda Development: Ken mentioned the possibility of looking at the auction class projects and assessing whether more money could be generated if these were raffle items instead of auction items.
- 10) Parking Lot: No items.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Rooks  
PTO Secretary