Plympton Elementary PTO

October 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Hamish Sherlock at 7:06 p.m.

In attendance

10 parents

7 PTO board members

Principal: Mrs. Taddeo

Vice Principal: Mrs. Hurwitz

Teacher representative: Mrs. Pinto

Multi-cultural representative: Mrs. Hagan-Alves

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September meeting were announced and approved.

Motions:

1. Laurie Moynihan
2. Cindy Boudreau

Treasurer’s Report
by Laurie Moynihan

* Account Balance: The beginning balance in September was approximately $22,000.
* Money Received: We received checks from A+ school rewards, TerraCycle, Target Take Charge of Education, Mixed Bag Fundraiser, Membership Dues, and Margarita’s Night Out.

Executive Board Report
by Hamish Sherlock

* Website: The PTO website has been revamped. The new site is more colorful and has a new front page. The volunteer page contains new events. The volunteer page is working because we received 2 new volunteer requests through the website. If you notice something incorrect or if there is something you would like to see on the website, please email the PTO at plymptonpto@yahoo.com.

Principal’s Report
by Mrs. Taddeo

* School Property: The gate has been reinstalled at the Farnsworth side of the street.
* Fire Prevention Week: This is Fire Prevention week for grades K-3. Many years ago, Plympton served as a model school for the 4th and 5th graders with a Jeopardy game in the gym. The program was piloted a few years ago and the fire department just received national recognition for the program.
* Professional Development Day: October 18 is the next Professional Development Day. Parents will receive a call from Mrs. Taddeo letting them know it is an early dismissal day. This day is intended for parent/teacher conferences.
* Homecoming Week: Weekend of Oct 20-21 is homecoming week. Spirit day on Oct. 19. Students are encouraged to wear red and white. High schoolers are going to come down to help out at lunch and recess wearing their football jerseys.
* BOKS Program: Cathy Tully, program manager for the BOKS program met with Mrs. Taddeo. Bill Foley is looking into getting a grant to unroll the program district-wide for next school year. BOKS will start at Plympton in February. On October 16 there will be a training session from 10-2. For more information, contact Ben Sloan.

**Teacher’s Report**
by Mrs. Pinto

* Vocabulary Day: Vocabulary day will be on Wednesday, October 31. Students and teachers are asked to come dressed up as their favorite vocabulary word. Mrs. Paradis will send home a flyer next week.

**Multicultural Report**by Mrs. Hagan-Alves

* Continent of the year: Every year, the multicultural committee focuses on a different continent so that throughout the child’s career at Plympton, they will be exposed to all 6 continents. This year’s continent is **Africa**. The committee is currently working on a cultural grant to bring in a special performer. They will also take up a collection for charity.
* English classes: English classes for non-English speaking parents will be starting up soon. This year, there will also be a computer literacy program. Flyers will be coming home soon. This program Started in 2009 as a volunteer program. It was suggested to put together a proposal and submit it to Title I and it was approved. The program receives funding from Title I on a year to year basis.
* African family: On a monthly basis, the multicultural committee will be highlighting a family from an African country. Last month, a Rwandan family was highlighted.
* Multicultural community meeting: Next meeting on Tuesday, October 23 at 3:15.

Standing Committee Reports

1. Restaurant Night Out
	* October’s restaurant night out is at the Chateau Restaurant on Tuesday, October 16 from 5-8. Need to the coupon to receive the 20 percent for the school. A coupon will be coming home and is available for download on the website.
2. Clip and save
	* We received 64 Box Tops sheets so far in the month of October.
3. TerraCycle
	* A flyer (Terra-What?) went home with students. We haven’t officially launched our collection program during lunchtime. Melissa Bardsley and Michelle Richard will be coming in to speak to the kindergarten through 3rd grades during their lunches.
4. Halloween Party

	* The Halloween committee has been formed and met on Tuesday, October 9. The Sign-Up Genius will be set up shortly. Watch the website or your email for the link. A flyer went home with the membership form on the backside. We need help to start decorating on Friday around 2:00. We decorate in the café, gym, entrance, and stairway, and foyer upstairs. We need volunteers for set up, clean up, pizza, games, etc. Volunteers must be CORI approved. There will also be raffles and will be able to purchase tickets in advance.
5. Visiting artists
* Kindergarten: Dental hygienist to visit in March
* Grades 1-3: Clara Barton – February 15
* 1st grade: March 20 – Dinosaur lady
* 2nd grade: Magnets - December 17
* 3rd grade: Museum of Science Planetarium – May
* 4th grade: High Tech touch
* 5th grade: Newton in a Nutshell
1. School Directory
	* Liz Lear hopes to have it finalized over the weekend and should be sent to the printers next week.
2. Mixed Bags fundraiser
* Mixed Bags orders were due this week. Successful – profit ~$3800 and counting. Will stay on the ws through 12/31 and we will receive 40% profit. Notice will go home about the extended online orders.
1. Gift cards

	* A flyer for the gift card fundraiser will be coming home this month. You can order/pay online or submit the order in the school. We will have some gift cards in stock at the school to buy that day. Gift cards will be available on a monthly basis. If there’s a gift card that is not on the list, please email the PTO at plymptonpto@yahoo.com and we will see what we can do.
2. Pie sales

	* Orders due back on Monday, October 15. Our goal is to sell 150 pies and so far we have received orders for 40 pies. The pies will be delivered frozen at the next PTO meeting on November 15th.
3. Election Day Bake Sale

	* This year’s bake sale will be huge since it’s a presidential election. We are in need of volunteers. We are in the process of setting up Sign Up Genius for volunteers to sign up for various shifts. We are also setting up a committee, which will meet next week. See Erick Bardsley if you are interested in helping. Looking for donations for the raffle table. We will be setting up tables the night before.
4. KidStuff Coupon Books

	* Liz Lear is running this fundraiser. The books are $25 each and the PTO gets 50% profit. The books will be for sale at the bake sale. The books will be sent them home mid-November.

**New business**

* Question: We have been contacted by the Providence Bruins. Would people be interested if the PTO arranged a night of hockey with the Providence Bruins? Members said yes.
* Spirit Wear: Would people be interested in Spirit Wear? Need chair. Hopefully will be in by Christmas.
* Drake Playground: The proposal sent to the city will be posted on the PTO website.
* Announcements:
* Stop & Shop A+: A flyer went home with students. Please register your card to receive money for the school. Promotion running through March 28.
* Target Take Charge of Education – if you have a Target card, please register your card on the Target website and the school will receive 1% back.

Next Meeting

* November 15, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., school cafeteria