Plympton Elementary PTO

March 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Anina Thompson at 7:10 p.m.

In attendance

4 parents

5 PTO board members

Principal: Mrs. Hurwitz

Teacher representative: Mrs. Bower

Guest Speaker

* Alexi Joannidis from Big Brother/Big Sister spoke about starting a school based, 1:1 mentoring program. The focus would be on friendship and fun activities. They would work with Mrs. Taddeo and Mrs. Lugo, the guidance counselor. Five volunteers would be matched up with kids in the school. Mrs. Lugo will identify the kids that look like they could benefit from the attention, in grades 2-4. If this works well, they hope to grow the program over the next couple of years, and to include female volunteers. Right now, only male Big Brothers are used. An interview and a CORI check are required. They do ask for a 1 year commitment. About 14 schools in Boston do this right now and it works well.

Approval of Minutes

* The minutes from the February meeting were announced and approved.

Treasurer’s Report  
by Laurie Moynihan

* Laurie Moynihan went over the treasurer’s report.
* Money Received:
  + $24 from Tyson
  + Restaurant Night Out – Uno’s $139, John Brewer’s $89
  + Family Trivia Day - $237
  + Amazon.com - $32.54
* Money spent:
  + RIF
  + Media Center Grant
  + Spirit Day
  + Postage
  + Music Specialist Grant

**Executive Board Report**by Anina Estrada

* Board met to discuss upcoming Health and Wellness night and Spirit Day. Committees will be meeting again soon to finalize details.

**Principal’s report**

By Mrs. Hurwitz

* BOKS is going REALLY well. Kids, parents and teachers love it!
* Science Night was well attended. Assistant Superintendent was in attendance. It will be even bigger next year.
* A lot of programs taking place at the moment and starting to run into time conflicts. Title 1 has been supporting the school to staff the before and after school programs.
* Staffing updates: Lillian Arsenault is still out. Donna Butler is covering. Mrs. Brophy is starting to walk around. Mrs. McClary did not have the baby yet. Erica Moran will be substituting for Mrs. McClary while she is out on maternity leave. There will be a meet and greet on Monday, the 18th, for parents and student to meet Ms. Moran.

**Teacher’s Report**  
by Ms. Bower

* Thank you for the Clara Barton visiting artist. In Mrs. Bower’s opinion, the historical visiting artists are the best ones. The kids are absolutely mesmerized.
* It would be nice to have a recycling bin in the teacher’s lounge to collect returnable bottles and cans. The teachers would be happy to donate the money to the PTO.
* MCAS – The students practice all year long to prepare for the test, especially open responses, therefore the kids will not be surprised on test day because it is something that they are familiar with. Some kids may be nervous the night before, but most will come home and say it wasn’t that hard. Make sure kids have a good night’s sleep and a good breakfast.

**Multicultural Report**

* International night is Thursday, March 21. It is a potluck dinner. Families may bring dishes from their native countries.
* April 12 – African dance troop to come in for students
* Mrs. Paradis was very happy that PTO gave money to buy books. She was able to buy a lot of books on curriculum topics.

Standing Committee Reports

1. Restaurant Night Out
   * February: The February restaurant is John Brewers on February 12. A coupon will be sent home.
   * March: March’s restaurant is Papa Gino’s on March 14. Notices went home last week.
   * April: at Uno’s for 5th grade. More information to come
   * May: Margarita’s
2. Clip and Save:

* Box Tops: The deadline to send in Box Tops for the next check is March 1. We will be sending out everything we have over February vacation. Keep up the great work! Everyone is doing a great job sending in those sheets.
* Campbell’s Labels For Education: There are currently several special promotions with Campbell’s Labels for Education and we are trying to send out the maximum amount of sheets allowed. Also, if we send in 3000 UPCs before March 31, we are eligible to receive free books for the library.
* Coke Rewards: Coke Rewards are ongoing.
* Terracycle:
  + We just shipped out everything we had on hand. In December, TerraCycle ran a special promotion that there were no minimums for deliveries, so we sent them everything we had.
  + We are looking for a new TerraCycle coordinator. If you are interested, please contact [PlymptonPTO@yahoo.com](mailto:PlymptonPTO@yahoo.com).
  + We received a check from TerraCycle for $165. We will submit a request for another check in May.

1. Visiting Artists   
   * Kindergarten:
     + Dental hygienist came in on March 6
     + Tide pool will be in on May 21
   * 1st grade: The Dinosaur Lady will be in o Wednesday, March 20 around 1:30

**New business**

* Movie Night—John Frassica is chairing this committee.
* March 20 – fundraiser at Margarita’s to support Plympton staff, benefitting Children’s Hospital Boston.

Next Meeting

* April 11, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., school cafeteria

Adjournment

* The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.