Plympton Elementary PTO

September 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Anina Thompson, president, at 7:07

In attendance

12 parents

5 PTO board members

Principal: Mrs. Taddeo

Assistant Principal: Mr. Audette

Teacher representative: Ms. Hagen-Alves

Approval of Minutes

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

Treasurer’s Report  
by Laurie Moynihan

* Laurie Moynihan went over the treasurer’s report.
  + Last year
  + Spirit day
  + Quilt supplies for Mrs. Hurwitz
  + $500 from Waltham to pay for cultural committee dancers
  + Panera—restaurant night out
  + Special grant for teachers to buy supplies
  + New Budget—to be approved
  + Kindergarten play date/1st day breakfast. Both events went well, $75 for both
  + $1650 in lakeshore gift cards for teachers
  + New Budget—dues will not be raised. We are expecting the same amount this year, around $3000
  + Some items added—new fundraisers, retiring staff
  + Website fees are all set for this year, due every 2 years
  + Wagon wheel fundraiser has been added. This will be the first weekend of every month. PTO gets %20 of sales

**Executive Board Report**by Anina Estrada

The PTO board met last week. We discussed fundraisers, the Halloween party, the Election Day Bake Sale. Committees are forming for these. We will meet as a board every month. Please email or call us with any concerns, questions etc…

**Principal’s report**

by Mrs. Taddeo

* School is going well. Mr. Audette is still learning everything about the school and doing great!
* Susan Pinto and Ronnie Sue Bower are the teacher representatives this year. Melissa Hagen-Alves is multicultural. Mrs. Pinto and Mrs. Bower could not be here tonight. Mrs. Hagen-Alves will fill in.
* We are at 447 students now. Could grow.
* We do have some new staff
* In Kindergarten, Ms. Carmody is with Mrs. Blanchard and Ms. Maron is a new teacher. Because of the 5th Kindergarten class, Ms. Maron is in room 208.
* Mrs. DeVioto is teaching 3rd grade. She came from the Whittemore School.
* Ms. Hache is now a permanent 4th grade teacher.
* Ms. Rodley is no longer at Plympton. Mrs. Lowe has taken over for her.
* Ms. Lenza is no longer at Plympton. Miss curry is teaching 5th grade now. She has experience from New York and Lawrence
* In Art, Ms. Smidt is back full time and Ms. Oliveri-Ahern is here part time.
* Mrs. Hagen-Alves is back for Drama, full time. We also have Mrs. Navarro part time. She is also part time for Music.
* Ms. Barker and Ms. Williams are the math coaches
* Ms. Thouch is our Challenge teacher
* In PE, we have Ms. Shay along with Ms. Corey
* We have some new Special Ed Paraprofessionals.
* Mr. Biddy, our lead Custodian, is out on medical leave. Mr. LeLievre is lead in his place.
* Ms. Arsenault has retired. Ms. Butler is acting manager in the café. She is applying for the permanent position.
* Section of gate missing at bacon and Farnsworth. This has been reported.
* We will continue with Plympton Pride this year at the Community Meetings.
* RTN has donated backpacks filled with school supplies. These will go to the homeless children and any other child that may need them.
* The emergency forms are new this year. More mainstream.
* Just a reminder that CORI forms must be submitted, in person, if you wish to be in the school, go on field trips etc…They are good for 3 years. Mrs. Brophy can tell you if you need a new one. They are good for all Waltham Public Schools.
* ConnectED is the service Mrs. Taddeo uses to send out phone messages. This is for emergency messages and reminders. Snow phone calls are done by the district.
* We do have an email distribution list for notices to eliminate paper notices. You can sign up through a web link. Only Mrs. Taddeo, Mr. Audette and Mr. Brophy will send things out through this.
* MCAS results will be sent home mid September.
* September 25 is our open house. An invitation will follow.
* October 9 is the all city PTO meeting, at 7:00, in the High School auditorium. The new plan for emergencies will be discussed--ALICE

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**Teacher’s Report**  
by Ms. Hagen-Alves

* The teachers were very thankful for the Lakeshore gift cards from the PTO

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

* Mrs. Hagen-Alves and second grade mom Tricia Umbrell will be co-presidents.
* They serve a dual purpose—celebrate diversity and reach out to help families whose primary language is not English, help them feel more comfortable.
* Looking for new members
* Will meet the 4th Thursday 3:15
* Every year we do a continent. This year is Central and South America, Guatemala.
* They are on the budget for visiting artist. The last time we had this continent, a Brazilian dance group came in. Everyone loved them. We may want to get them again.
* During the open house, we will have some resources in the library—Park and Rec department, Boys & Girls Club etc…
* We will spotlight kids who are from specific countries and have artifacts on display in the foyer.
* There will be another potluck dinner and maybe a couple of other big things.
* We will not be doing English classes again. Instead we may try afternoon child story hours, parent outreach nights, dance nights etc…

Standing Committee Reports

1. Restaurant Night Out—Lori Pasto and Jessica Vauteur and handling this this year. Our first one is Beat Da Wrap on September 19 & 20. You will need a flyer.

* Clip and Save:Box Tops: kids got baggies over the summer to fill with box tops. They are coming in. Kids will be entered into a drawing for IMAX tickets.
* Campbell’s Labels For Education: Still going on. Last year we bought an iPod touch with the points.
* Coke Rewards: Last year we got two large, refillable water jugs with the points.

1. Visiting Artists –These are paid for by the PTO. They are curriculum based and are being scheduled not. One change—the Star Lab from the Museum of Science will be in December due to scholarship timings.

* Kindergarten: Dental Hygienist, NEAQ
* 1st grade: The Dinosaur Lady
* 2nd grade: Electricity & Magnets
* 3rd grade: Star Lab
* 4th grade: Funomena
* 5th grade: Newton in a nutshell

Grades 4&5 are pending.

1. Directory—Elizabeth Lear is compiling the contact information for kids in each classroom and the school. Emailing Elizabeth your information is easier. You only get the directory if you are listed in it. Get paper copies or electronic.
2. Fundraisers—we have lots. A letter will be going home re: what the PTO does, what the fundraisers are etc…do what you like!

Flower power is the first fundraiser. This will go through September 25. Genevieve will be after that. If the flowers are successful, we may do them again in the spring.

We will be doing the pies again. Order and receive before Thanksgiving.

Wagon wheel is new for us. The first weekend of every month, the PTO will get 20% of your bill if you shop there and just mention us. No flyer needed.

1. BOKS is coming back! There will be a Monday/Wednesday session and a Tuesday/Thursday session. We need trainers. Michelle Obama is now endorsing BOKS!
2. The Green Team is coming back! Look for info to follow.
3. The PTO will host a welcome back ice cream party on Friday, September 26. Notice to follow.
4. The Halloween party is October 26. A committee meeting is coming up.
5. The Bake Sale is on November 5. A meeting for this is also coming up.

**New business**

* No new business.
* We are looking for a donations coordinator and a fundraising coordinator. Please email or call us if interested.
* If you have an account at Watertown Savings Bank, you can go there and vote for Plympton to receive a monetary donation.
* The school is in need of recess monitors! This is a paid position. Please see Mrs. Taddeo if interested.

Next Meeting

* Thursday, October 10 at 7:00 in the school cafeteria.

Adjournment

* The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.