Plympton Elementary PTO

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Anina Thompson, president, March 11, 2014.

In attendance

4 parents; 2 incoming K parents

3 PTO board members

Principal: Mrs. Taddeo

Teacher representative: Mrs. Pinto

Approval of Minutes

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

Treasurer’s Report
by Laurie Moynihan

* Anina went over the Treasurer’s Report in Laurie’s absence.

**Executive Board Report**by Anina Estrada

* PTO Board met last week.
* We reviewed recent activities—Bingo Night, Wellness Night, RIF, Square One Art and Dining Out.

**Principal’s report**

by Mrs. Taddeo

* Just came from a course, SEI, teachers need to take it.
* This year the Vertical Concerts have been brought back. Some Plympton students are participating. Orchestra students had that tonight. Mr. Audette is attending that concert.
* Staff changes—Ms. Wood had a baby girl. She will be out until June 2. Miss Carlin had a baby girl. She will be out for rest of year. Mrs. McCormack had a baby boy. She will also be out for rest of year. Parents and students have known about this since last year. Ms. Schmidt is pregnant with twins and needs to be off her feet. She will be out this week and next, possibly out for the rest of the year.
* The city has hired a consulting firm. They have been visiting the schools. They came to Plympton last week. What can we do differently? What kind of space do we need? Can anything be done with the foyers?
* BOKS continues. We were the pioneer school in Waltham. Macarthur started. Whittemore is interested as well.
* Multicultural Committee--Each year the kids choose a community service project to collect money for. This year Only A Child was chosen. The founder of the charity will be here in April. He will attend our PCM and will be presented with the money that has been raised. Over $1,000 was raised.
* The community meetings are once a month. They start with a video of things that went on in the school over the last month. Today’s meeting featured Read Across America and Immigration Day. We also introduce any new staff and students, highlight a student/family, artist of the month, review the Plympton Pride values, and Mrs. Hagen-Alves puts on a skit with some of the children.
* MCAS is coming next week—ELA reading is first. Suggestions have been sent home for parents to help prepare their kids—sleep well, eat a good breakfast, try their best, etc…Mrs. Taddeo and Mr. Audette will go to each classroom and give a pep talk.

**Teacher’s Report**
by Ms. Pinto

* The teachers thank the PTO for the recent visiting artists—Marie Curie, the Dinosaur Lady and Starlab, which will be on March 25.

**Multicultural Report**by Mrs. Pinto—In Mrs. Hagen Alves absence

* Hoping to have a performance from a Brazilian dance group late in the spring.
* Some Plympton students will be involved with the Waltham Philharmonic on May 10.
* Magnets will be for sale soon. These were designed by Ms. Schmidt.

Standing Committee Reports

1. Restaurant Night Out
	* We had Papa Gino’s in January. This wasn’t a great turn out. Most likely due to the snow. Over February vacation we had a bonus night out at Uno’s. This money was given to the 5th grade committee. Next week is the 99.
2. Clip and Save:
* Box Tops: Another batch of box tops was just sent out for $520.
* Campbell’s Labels For Education: We will use our “prize money” for something to use at spirit day.
* Coke Rewards: In the past, we have received flip videos, scooters and playground balls.
* Terracycle: An update on Terracycle will be coming

1. Visiting Artists

Marie Curie was here. She was great. The Dino Lady is coming tomorrow. The third grade has Starlab coming in March. The Kindergarten has the dental hygienist tomorrow. We have applied for a $2,000 grant from Target. We will know later in 2014 if we receive it.

1. Fundraisers
	* Wagon wheel—This is still the first weekend of every month. We get 20% of sales. It’s been working well.
	* Flower power—This is new this year. It was done in the fall, now again in the spring. Orders should be returned by March 28. It can also be done online.
	* The first annual Plympton PTO Golf Tournament is coming on June 7! You can email Kristie Hanley at KristieLHanley@gmail.com for more information.
2. BOKS
	* BOKS is going well. A reminder to families—kids must bring water and wear sneakers!
3. Looking for some new committee chairs—We need some help organizing some committees next year. Some of those are RIF, the pies in the fall, Gift Cards, Square One Art. Some of these require very little time from you. Please get in touch with anybody on the board if you’re interested. It’s a lot of fun and a great way to help your child’s school. Without parent involvement, some things won’t be able to continue.
4. **ALL PTO BOARD POSITIONS ARE OPEN FOR NEXT YEAR**! Nominations will be at the April meeting and elections in May. All positions are for a 2 year term.
5. Spirit Day will be all day June 20. We need lots of parents to help make this day a success! You do need a CORI in order to volunteer at this and all school events.
6. Superintendent advisory council—Our superintendent, Dr. Nicholson, has formed an advisory council made up of 2 parents from each school in Waltham. Amy DiMatteo and Kristie Hanley are representing Plympton. Please get in touch with either of them if you’d like any issues brought to Dr. Nicholson’s attention.

Next Meeting

* April 8 at 7:00 p.m., school cafeteria

Adjournment

* The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.