

Our mission is to help parents and the community understand and support the mission of the school, to encourage participation in the life of the school, to create a sense of community among parents, guardians, children, teachers and the town, and to create happy memories for our children.

PELHAM SCHOOL PTO MINUTES

Minutes for September 12, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Kristin Mattocks at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance

Kristin Mattocks, Ruth Carolan, Elise Stromgren, Lisa Desjarlais, Rebecca Feldberg, Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Lisa Candito, Amy Wasserman, Tracy Farnham and Sarah Scott-Kunkel. Amy Wasserman brought a spice cake for everyone to share. Childcare was offered, and pizza was provided to both the PTO and the children in the childcare program.

Overview of PTO

PTO president Kristin Mattocks welcomed the new members of the PTO, briefly described the mission of the PTO, and asked those present to spread the word about upcoming events and PTO meetings to increase parents' participation. *The PTO's mission is to help parents and the community understand and support the mission of the school; to encourage participation in the life of the school; to create a sense of community among parents, guardians, children, teachers, and the town; and to create happy memories for our children.* PTO funds support programs in the school – last year funded the Artists in Residence, new globes and maps for classrooms, a new microwave for the staff lounge. PTO funds, coordinates and holds a staff appreciation luncheon every spring.

Major Events in the Coming Year

Scholastic Book Fair: September 30 – October 7. Coordinator: Ellen Leuchs (eleuchs@comcast.net)

10-15 volunteers needed, Ellen will circulate a shift list so that parents can sign up to help. PTO unanimously voted to fund one book from each staff's wish list of books and/or items for the classroom; to fund book scholarships for students identified by Deb King (Pelham School Counselor, better known to the children and parents as the "Feelings" teacher); and to provide all proceeds from the book fair to the Pelham School library.

Fall Potluck/Ice Cream Social: September 30, Coordinator and 5-10 volunteers needed. Tracy Farnham agrees to speak to local creameries to get price and quantity information, Kristin will ask Leanne Hasbrouck to remind classroom reps that each grade will be assigned to bring a topping or other items to create the sundaes, PTO will fund the ice cream and provide utensils and dishes. Volunteers needed to help set up, staff the ice cream serving table and help clean up. If you are interested in volunteering, email PTO secretary Elise Stromgren (esweets@comcast.net)

Halloween Party October 31, Coordinators Barry Parker and Ruth Carolan. Pelham School holds a Halloween party; children and parents come in costume, the 6th Grade creates a sort-of-scary, mostly fun, "haunted house" for everyone to enjoy; there are games, prizes and refreshments. The main event is the all-school Trick-or-Treat through the neighborhood loop; children and families go enmasse or in groups through the neighborhood near the school, the Pelham police circulate the loop and the PTO provides houses on the loop with candy to distribute, if they request it. 8-10 volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping out with this event please email Ruth Carolan (rdcarolan@charter.net)

Valentine's Day Party/Dance (February 11)

Spring Fair (TBD)

Additional Fundraising/PTO-sponsored Activities

Savings Makes Sense, Coordinator PTO treasurer Diana Zahradnik, volunteers needed to assist. Florence Savings Bank rep will attend curriculum night to provide information about this; a child can open an account with a dollar and can make deposits at the school each Wednesday morning. For every \$10 dollars a child deposits, Florence Savings Bank contributes \$ 1.00 to their account. More information to come.

Diana will provide an update about the Gift Wrap fundraiser at the next meeting.

Original Works Art Project, Coordinator Amy Wasserman. The Art Project works with the Art teacher and the children make a piece of artwork that may then be transferred to items (mugs, magnets, pillowcases, other items) by the Original Works Art Project company. Packets with information about purchasing the Art works come home in the student's back packs. These make excellent holiday and birthday gifts.

Pelham School tee-shirt. Lisa brought a Pelham school tee-shirt from years ago and after discussion PTO unanimously agrees to create a Pelham tee-shirt. Amy will contact UMass graphic design to see if they will donate services. Design shown was a "Be a Buddy, not a Bully" shirt.

Administrative Reports

Treasurers Report: Ruth provided the report for PTO treasurer Diana Zahradnik. Current balance is \$13,334.69. Ruth bought a cake \$40 for the picnic and will provide Diana with receipt for reimbursement. There is also a \$139.00 receipt outstanding from Mary Taylor for the Field Day event last year, not reflected in the balance. Childcare and pizza costs for PTO meetings will be calculated and reimbursed from PTO funds.

Principal's Report: Lisa says that new curtains for the stage are being made. The director of the Afterschool Program, Lennie Ware, is funding half the cost (\$700) of the curtains and the PTO will fund the other half (\$700). Lisa was told in July that they would be done in two weeks but has yet to hear that they are ready. Curtains are custom-made, Bruce Klotz (Pelham parent) has volunteered his time to hang them once they are done. The badly-in-need-of-repair accordion doors at the front of the stage will be removed - the cost to fix them is the same as the cost to replace them; since the space is no longer instructional space the doors are not needed/required. Lisa spoke with John Trickey of the finance committee and he said that in the event that the school should need to install accordion doors for an instructional space in the future, we can put in a request to the town to use free cash to fund them.

Next PTO Meeting

Monday October 3, 2011 Staff Lounge 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
CHILDCARE, PIZZA AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted 9/13/2011 Elise Stromgren PTO secretary