

Sowams School PTO Meeting
June 7, 2010

In Attendance: Sara Bonneau, Evie Greene, Jim Callahan, Catherine McBride, Kristin White, Eileen Brady, Lisa Daft, Linda Testa, Leanne Berlinsky, Alisa Catani, Darlene DeRosa, Kristen Materne, Chase Kazounis, Elizabeth O'Connell, Suzanne Tedeschi-Freij, Maria Suarez, Diane Ballou, Kim McDermott, Debbie MacGillivray, Nicole Jellinek

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05 pm

Approval of Minutes from March and May Meetings: Copies of minutes were provided. Motion was made to approve both meeting minutes. Unanimously approved.

Presidents' Report:

Diane Ballou and Kim McDermott

Open PTO Positions:

- Cultural Enrichment position available; field trip coordinator, making sure process is followed, follow budget
- Extended Day
- Membership
- Recess Coordinator Position (Nov – March-ish to facilitate indoor recess and cover classrooms, needed 1 parent per day)
- SEAC rep (Special Education Advisory Committee) parents with special education kids in system, keep information re: events, special forums, information
- Teacher Appreciation—organize Teacher Appreciation celebration
- 3rd Grade Reception Coordinator

New Presidents: Alisa Catani and Leann Berlinsky

Treasurers' Report:

Debbie MacGillivray/Eileen Brady

- Trying to finalize for the year—lots still pending including 3rd grade reception, some field trips, hospitality/childcare, library.
- Arts Enrichment went \$395 over budget with great programming. Money taken from Gift to School 2009, where there was leftover
- Shaws paid last \$142; should be check coming from Stop and Shop
- Yearbook \$160 made.
- Spring photos will pay to principal's fund.

Principal's Report:

Jim Callahan

- Thanks to outgoing board.
- Next year: Likely next year only 3 1st grade classes.
- All schools will be having some type of security measure put into place, facility dependent. Sowams will be getting buzz-in system, doors locked, closed-captioned tv to office desk and someone will have to OK all entering. Doors will be open to allow kids in until 8:15 am. Should go into effect soon, perhaps before end of year.

Teacher's Report:

Elizabeth O'Connell

Thank you for all that parents do behind the scenes to enrich student lives. Sowams Speedway under Loradonna Tuttobene's leadership; Green Team's recycling effort at lunch, coordinated by Kristen Materne and Nicole Jellinek; Aimee Keenan for her help with the Pipeline; Rock for the Relay; Teacher Appreciation seemed to go on forever!; 3rd Grade Reception team. Snacks provided for the meeting as a thank you!

Committee Reports:**School Committee Report:**

Maria Suarez

- Discussion and prom and breathalyzer—no incidents but discussion of whether this is changing students behavior about substance abuse or attitude?
- School formula
- Alan Gravell retiring in 1 year.
- Lunch fees going up by 25 cents. Chartwells working with FarmFresh RI to provide healthy lunch.
- Bus savings noted (we pay less than budgeted).

Octoberfest:

Lisa Daft

Planning has begun, date is October 16! Looking for 1 – 2 people to co-chair as Lisa will be leaving Sowams in 2 years. Currently need co-chair, someone to run class games, to coordinate volunteers, facepainting/nails/hair coordinator, food coordinator. Volunteers welcome!

SEAC Update:

Sara Bonneau

No update.

New Business:

- Could Carroll Garland use PTO subcommittee to help and support with her various activities, e.g. Helping Hands, enrichment clusters.
- Green Team would like a PTO budget.
- Gardening—lawn is long, are there people to help with weeding, courtyard is overgrown. People want to help, but aren't sure how to make it happen. Add a PTO courtyard and grounds committee for 2010/2011.
- Town cannot bobcat the Peace garden alongside building until fall, so volunteers needed to turn soil by hand. Flier will go out with Backpack Express.
- Science Olympiad raised their \$\$ to compete and did well.
- Can we better coordinate with Tracey Orchard so we understand what parents have volunteered to do?

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

