



October 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Commenced: 7:10 pm

Board Members Present: Cathy Gallinger – Treasurer, Marybeth Quaadgras – Secretary, Ranjini Reddy – President

Parents, Teachers, Community Members Present: Loretta Crumlish – Teacher Representative, Mary Tsacoyeanes – Teacher Representative

Welcome and Introductions – Ranjini Reddy

Ranjini Reddy thanked the teacher representatives for coming to the evening meeting. It was suggested that we perhaps use the extended day room for November meeting as that room has toys that kids can play with and perhaps more parents may attend.

Secretary's Report - Marybeth Quaadgras

Modification for September PTO meeting minutes – Add Mrs. Tsacoyeanes to the attendees list.
First Motion to Approve – Ranjini Reddy; Second Motion to Approve - Mary Tsacoyeanes

Treasurer's Report - Cathy Gallinger

Cathy Gallinger passed out the Balance Sheet and the PTO Budget for year to date. We have \$102,770 in the bank accounts. We are in a good cash position. There is little activity right now on profit and loss fronts. This will change with the upcoming craft fair, book fair, and direct appeal. Cathy has received some of the vendor checks for the craft fair and is starting to get reimbursement forms for expenses.

We received our Certificate of Solicitation from the State of Massachusetts, allowing the PTO to solicit contributions. We have not yet heard back from the IRS on our tax exempt situation.

In the Fidelity account there is approximately \$6400. It is thought that funds were put into this account when interest rates were higher. We would like to consolidate this account with the other PTO Middlesex Bank accounts. Cathy Gallinger will check to determine if there are any withdrawal penalties for moving these funds before we vote on moving the funds to Middlesex Bank.

Fundraising - Ranjini Reddy

Direct Annual Appeal: The direct appeal letter went out today, 10/18.

Craft Fair Update: Ranjini Reddy reported for Beth Ali, Rebecca Bregman, and Seema Shenoy. There are approximately 75 crafters signed up. Beth Ali hopes to have 85-90. Many jewelers have approached her but she doesn't want an overwhelming number of jewelry makers. Coupons went out in the Newsflash and Action Unlimited. Craft fair ads ran in the Action Unlimited and The Beacon. Linda Vittum is running online advertising. Seema Shenoy is coordinating the volunteers; there are approximately 75 volunteers signed up right now, but we are still short on parking volunteers. Another push for volunteers will happen next week. There is a question on whether we have enough people baking for the fair bake sale.

Book Fair: Ranjini Reddy reported that books are expected to be delivered around 10/31-11/1. Elizabeth Foley, parent of a recent Conant graduate is helping. Informational letters have gone out. Two family nights will be held on November 5th and 7th. Mrs. Brusie and Melissa Hayes will be reading on November 7th. Some student council members may read on that evening.

Student Directory Update – Ranjini Reddy

Ranjini Reddy reported that NiNa Fernandes is waiting on compilation of data from Mrs. Olsen. The PTO contact page has been completed. Based on discussions from the September PTO meeting, we will not be charging this year for the directory.

Inter-School Council Meeting Update – Marybeth Quaadgras, Ranjini Reddy

Marybeth Quaadgras reported on the Interschool Council Meeting held earlier in the month. Last year, Dr. Mills presented the first year of an investment budget which passed during town meeting with reservation. Dr. Mills will be pushing again for an investment budget which includes funds to maintain level services and to meet some school system needs.

At the regional level, Dr. Mills will be pushing for

- Two additional English teachers so that the number of sections per teacher can be reduced from 5 to 4;
- Creating a Connections/Bridges program at the high school;
- Increasing the number of drug/alcohol counseling hours;
- Increasing the number of teacher professional development days. We currently have two days while other districts have eight days.

Dr. Mills will be discussing Acton Public School needs with the elementary principals in the next few days.

In light of economic realities, Dr. Mills explained that it will be a tougher to pass the budget next year. Dr. Mills needs the support of the school community to pass an investment budget. He wants us to get the word out that parents need to attend school committee meetings and get as many parents and interested persons to attend the town meeting in April to vote on the school budget.

Principal's Update -No update; Mr. Sugrue had to attend a school committee meeting held at the same time as the PTO meeting.

Open Items – Ranjini Reddy

Cultural Enrichment: Ranjini Reddy reported that Pam Nelson has organized Hero Art to come to Conant. Hero Art's presentation promotes self-efficacy and confidence. The assembly may occur in December and will cost approximately \$1250. She is looking at booking another visual artist. The Cultural Enrichment budget is \$2000.

Gardening: The PTO is looking for parent with landscaping skills to advise us on how to best to clean up the school's gardens. The gardens are overgrown. We can perhaps have a Saturday cleanup day in March or April when the snow is gone and it is not very muddy. We currently do not have a chair for the Gardening committee. It was suggested that we approach the Acton Garden Club and/or high school students to help us out.

Playground: Mrs. Crumlish asked about purchasing more swings – at minimum of 4 more swings, 8 more would be great. She also requested a place for the younger grades to play. Longer term, she suggested considering a community build in upgrading the playgrounds in order to save money on labor costs.

Community Building: We need more school community building activities. For starters, we are looking at a Games (Board Game) night and a Movie night. We would have to pay \$100 for movie licensing. Mrs. Tsacoyeanes misses having the Pot Luck that used to be held at NARA during the first Thursday of the first week of school. She recommended bringing it back and it can be a low key affair where everyone brings a dish.

Next Meeting: Friday, November 16th 2012 9:30 am

Adjournment: 8:05 pm