

Margaret Beeks PTO March 1, 2012 – 4pm

Attendance: Carla Slebodnick, Jeanne Truesdell, Nancy Massey, Elizabeth Briggs, Allison Skinner, Yvonne Clark, Steven Sutphen, I-Mo Fu, Emilee Anderson, Lisa Belden, Lindsay Barron, Carly Weber, Jenny Lo

Meeting was called to order at 4pm by President, Carla Slebodnick

- Claire Law, 4th grade teacher, spoke about recycling efforts at Beeks. She is trying to revitalize the effort but is missing recycling bins for all the classrooms to put mixed paper in. She is asking the PTO to fund 8 cans at an approximate cost of \$10 each. Lisa Belden offered to buy as a donation but first Nancy Massey will contact the Town and County about securing bins for free.
- Re-districting of the County is still undecided. The next work session was cancelled and the final presentation of the recommended plan will be 3/20. At the last February work session it became obvious that Option 2, which had the most students moving was unpopular with Option 1.b or some variation of being the most popular.
- County School budget is stalled until the State Budget is approved. However, it is looking like we will have a significant shortfall of about \$8.4 Million. Receiving the funding asked for by the School Board would only get us to the 2007 budget numbers for the schools. County Supervisor meetings have been well attended by the Tea Party lobbying against and Occupy lobbying for a tax increase to fund the short fall. Everyone should be aware that huge budget cuts look possible. The main reasons for the underfunding from the State has to do with an unfunded mandate concerning retirement plans and they re-formulated how they calculate what monies the school districts receive. Since Montgomery County's housing values stayed fairly stable during the housing deflation crisis that is now counting against us.
- 5th grade writing SOL's are the first full week of March. SOL's for 3-5th grades look like they may take the entire month of May.
- It is possible that school will dismiss for the summer on May 25th if there are no more snow days.
- Field Day has not been set as we are waiting for the SOL testing dates. We may have to hold it in April or on different days by grade level.
- There are 2 proposed calendars for the 2012-2013 school year. They both have early start dates to allow more time the following summer to get Auburn and Blacksburg High Schools finished in time for the 2013-2014 school year.
- The school needs 2 laminators at \$23/each. The PTO voted to purchase these.
- Guest Author, Tom Angleberger, was a great success. He was funny, approachable and the kids and teachers loved his presentations. Great job Elizabeth for organizing this.

- 5th graders voted to support the library with their 5th grade legacy. In particular they would like to fund the finishing out of series that the library is missing.
- Restaurant Night – Tuesday, March 6 at the Frosty Parrot. Not a huge money maker but fun and a way to support a new Town business. Bulls and Bones is scheduled for May and we are going to try to work a Sal's night in to the school year as well.
- Summer Kick Off/Festival – Bobby Chase has volunteered to spear head this effort. Probably similar to last year but would prefer to separate it from Field Day as that was a very long day for the parent volunteers who did both events.
- International Dinner will be held March 13 from 6:30 – 7:30.
- Spring Picture Day – cap and gowns for 5th grade was an issue as it slowed things down, may need 3 photographers next year to help with flow and time.
- Class picture day is set for April 12.
- Books 4 Breakfast is a continued success. We are handing out 150-175 books every month. The next one is scheduled for March 15 and an order will be placed soon that will use the allotted budget for the year.
- Volunteer needs for next year are great. We have a bunch of 4th and 5th grade parents that have held these positions and are transitioning out.
- On March 16, the business fraternity Beta Alpha Psi will be coming to Beeks with 150 volunteers to spruce up things inside and out. We need parent supervisors and lots of equipment like ladders and rakes.
- The Town received a grant of \$35k from Safe Routes to school to connect the trails at First and Main to the school grounds to give more walkers a safe walking path. They are also going to supply a new covered bike rack.
- The slide in the upper grade playground has a split and is considered a hazard by the County so it has been roped off and is not usable. The County and Mr. Mefford are trying to track down a replacement slide. The PTO may be called upon to fund the new slide.
- Lindsay Barron talked about WOW Programs that are run by her company Whole Child. This would be a fundraiser for the PTO as well as provide enrichment programs for children after school. PTO would get 20% of tuition but we would be responsible for making copies for the program. Scholarships may be available. She can run as many classes as interest and demand dictate. A 4 week class would cost \$50 a 6 week class \$65. PTO voted to allow Lindsay to run a couple of classes in April as a test and then roll a fuller program out in the Fall.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.