

Margaret Beeks PTO Minutes

General Meeting, November 7, 2012, 4 PM

Attendance: (List was lost, so this is almost certainly incorrect): Jenny Lo, Carla Slebodnick, Lisa Maloney, April Peacock, Rhonda Burch, Bill Sembello, Yvonne Clark, Carly Weber, Stephen Sutphin, Holly McFall, Lauren Ermann, Laura Oler, and Faith Taylor, Laura Krish

- I. Call to Order at 4 PM
- II. Approval of Minutes October 2012.
- III. Principal Report (given by Mr. Sembello)
 - a. 2013-14 Budget: Public forum to be held November 12 at 7 PM at CHS to discuss budget priorities. The county anticipates another round of tough cuts and seeks public input for means weather these cuts with minimal impact on the school system.
- IV. Teacher Representative Report
 - a. Oct 15 Teacher Appreciation Brunch—Thank you!
 - b. Common Book Project—“One Book, One School” as part of “Give me 5” initiative—see “Open Issues” for details.
- V. Treasurer Report
 - a. October Income=\$1125.41: PTO Dues=\$10; Kroger cards =\$1115.41.
 - b. October Expenses=\$609.76: Miscellaneous =\$100 (gift card in memory of Kat Werner); Teacher stipend (for new 3rd grade teacher)=\$50; B4B = \$101.80; Guidance Discretionary=\$90; Principal Discretionary = \$192.91; School Improvements (marquee) = \$90; Beeks 50th Birthday =\$9.62; Landscaping = \$-24.57.
- VI. President’s Report: nothing new. Next PTO President’s meeting Dec. 3.
- VII. Open Issues
 - a. Girl Scout Reading Garden: Voted to donate \$25 toward the garden. Approved.
 - b. Kroger Cards: Discussed getting more participation.
 - Faith will talk at Beeks Staff Meeting (Nov 28 @3:45 PM) to try to get more support from teachers (e.g. include notes in weekly news letters).
 - Research adding an option to buy a card through the PTO website.
 - Motion to gift teachers/staff with a card as part of teacher appreciation; money coming out of “Teacher Stipend” (which was over budgeted). \$5/person x 58 people= \$290. Motion passed.
 - c. Adventure World Fundraiser: Julene is still researching.
 - d. “Give Me 5”:
 - Program Description: This program has been implemented in various locations (locally in Lynchburg, but originally in New Zealand). The program is designed to provide a positive atmosphere that will (1) get parents more involved in the school, their children’s education, and their own education; (2) increase parent teacher communication; (3) increase school spirit. The program centers around the number “5” (e.g. spend 5 minutes talking with your kids about school each day, volunteer 5 hrs at the school, donate \$5, etc.)
 - Program Chairs: Carly Weber and Mr. Sembello
 - Possible Components:

1. "One Book, One School": Each Beeks Family would be provided with a copy of a common book. Mr. Sembello recommends "The World According to Humphry" for 2012-13. Students/families would be encouraged to read the book at home and discuss in the classroom. A fun evening activity can be centered around the book after all the students finish reading the book. Mrs. Maloney volunteered to help Mr. Sembello organize this activity. Mr. Sembello will research the cost of providing each family with a book.
2. In school activities such as School Spirit Days and "pass the bracelet".
3. Monthly theme/focus
4. Fundraising: see if local companies will assist.
5. Family Social Events: e.g. movie night, campout, dodge ball tournament, international dinner, mother/son tea, father/daughter dance, nature walks
 - Funding: The common book, social activities, etc. are estimated to cost >\$1500 (we will have a better idea after Mr. Sembello gets quotes on the common book). The budget line item for "Fall Festival" has \$650 remaining and we have no "Summer Kickoff" chair. Motion to redirect this money to a new "Give Me 5" line item was approved (\$1150 total).
- e. 2012-13 Committee Chair Needs: Spring Fling/Summer Kickoff: No longer an issue. The line item for this has been rolled into "Give Me 5" to be used toward common book, evening social events, etc. (see above)
- f. Committee Updates:
 - Fall Photos: Original Makeup day cancelled because of snow day. Makeups Nov 15.
 - Yearbook: Laura Krish meeting with Lifetouch Rep.
 - B4B: going very well.

VIII. New issues

- a. Teacher Needs: PTO would like to establish a common goal for fundraising. (e.g. iPads, common book, Kindles for library, playground equipment, etc.). It was noted that teachers from different grade levels (PK-K, 1-2, 3-5) might have different preferences. Jane McGuigan will present request at next Faculty Meeting to get ideas from the teachers.
- b. Playground Equipment: Playground equipment has become scarce. The PTO would like to invest in more playground equipment but some issues need to be addressed first:
 - PTO needs an inventory existing playground equipment—another item for the next faculty meeting!
 - PTO would need to add a new budget item once we know the needs.
 - School needs to develop a long term inventory management plan to ensure equipment is maintained. One suggestion was to provide each grade with a storage bag and equipment and to color code the bags and by grade.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 5 PM.