

Margaret Beeks PTO Minutes

11 Nov 2010, 4-5 PM

Attendance: Micah Mefford, Jeanne Truesdell, Jenny Lo, Carla Slebodnick, Laura Krisch, Laura Battiatia, Kaye Gilliam, Megan Ridgley, Carly Weber, Nancy Massey, Laura Oler, Cindy Hill, Anna Champion, Amy Schwartz, Elizabeth Briggs

Teacher Representative Report

- *Teacher Appreciation:* Mrs. Ridgley expressed thanks on behalf of the teachers for the October teacher appreciation lunch. Teachers also enjoyed the Fall Festival.

Treasurer Report

- *October Income:*
 - *Fall Fundraiser:* Wrapping paper and flag sales brought in a combined \$1810. Monetary donations totaled \$610. Overall Total = \$2420. Thanks to Amy Schwartz for organizing this event.
 - PTO Dues: \$15
 - Kroger Cards: \$674
 - Football Parking (GLE) \$136
- *Box Tops:* We expect close to \$900 for the Dec/Jan payment. Thus we are well on track toward our goal of \$1300 for the entire school year.
- *October Expenses:*
 - Books for Breakfast: \$64
 - Guidance Discretionary: \$52
 - Cultural Arts: \$200 used by 1st grade for the Marionette show.
 - SMART Boards: Mr. Mefford used the remainder of the mutual fund for SMART Boards. The mutual fund PTO monies are now \$0.00.
- Fall Festival: current reimbursements \$426 (\$74 under budget), there are still a few outstanding reimbursements related to Fall Festival
- *November Football parking:* OBMS brought is \$1600. Our total for the 3 days of VT parking was \$2500--\$1500 more than budgeted. Thank you to everyone who stood out in the rain/cold to help! And a special thanks to Jeanne Truesdell for organizing the volunteers.
- *Year Book:* The bill from the previous year finally arrived.
- *October/November Fund Raisers:*
 - *Fall Fundraiser:* Flags and wrapping paper sales currently active. Orders due Oct 12.
 - *Football Parking:* Sat. Oct 16 @ GLE and Thurs. Nov 4 @ Old BMS: both completed
 - *PTO Mutual Fund:* In 2009-2010, the PTO agreed to cash in a mutual fund to purchase SMART Boards and other technology. There was still \$2080.36 left in the mutual fund. Mr. Mefford will use this remaining balance to purchase another SMART Board.

Open Issues

- *Committee Chairs:* We still need a number of committee chairs. See the PTO web page (<http://www.mbeppto.com/volunteer.html>) for a listing of open positions. Some of the more critical positions to fill include:
 - Spring/Summer kickoff: this will not be held without someone to organize the event.
 - Fundraising: currently the PTO officers have been managing this. They would dearly love to delegate the task to another Beeks parent!
 - School Pictures: 2 parents have typically helped with school pictures--both scheduling of class visitation times and helping to make sure kids hair is combed, etc. We will need a couple volunteers for Spring pictures.
 - VT Parking: This is a big money maker with little effort. Since we had no volunteers for this Fall, we thought we would start early in trying to recruit for the 2011 football season!

- *Fall Festival:* Thank you Amy Schwartz and Anna Champion for organizing a wonderful Fall Festival! For future reference---Fall Festival is easier to organize and more affordable without the VT athletes--they can be difficult to schedule and they eat a lot of pizza.
- *Future Fundraising events:* On A Whim offered a shop-n-share day. On this day, if people bring a flier sent home with the students, then 10% of the cost of the purchase will go to Beeks. We are still exploring the possibility of having a fundraiser at MaggieMoo's. Carly Weber is in charge of looking into these possible events.
- *Happy Feet:* going well. Mr. Sloss has VT helpers for the younger kids on Tuesday/Thursday. He doesn't really need help for the older kids on Monday/Wednesday.
- *Safe Routes To School:* This is a VDOT program to fund infrastructure improvements that would make walking/biking to school more friendly. MCPS decided to focus on Beeks this year. The program is as far as it is going to progress--VDOT hasn't yet posted the guidelines/deadlines for submission. In previous years, the deadline was right before Christmas, but that doesn't seem likely this year.
- *PTO Webpage:* The new site is up and running (www.mbepto.com). Beeks also has a Facebook page.

Principal Report:

- *Fall Festival:* Mr. Mefford thanked the organizers and volunteer for a wonderful community event.
- *SMART Boards:* 3 SMART boards have been purchased and will be installed. This means that 11/22 classrooms (excluding non-specialty classes) will have smart boards. In addition to getting SMART boards for the regular classrooms in the future, the music and art teachers could make good use of a SMART board.
- *Report Cards* went out November 10.
- *Sunshine Day:* This is a special day designated to 'celebrate' the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Mefford reminded the parents that student names and addresses are included in the information that must be made available to the public. Examples of reasons to request this information includes media requests for reporting, military requests for recruiting, and sales companies request to develop targeted sales lists (e.g. for class rings). If parents do not want their child(ren)'s name available to the public, the parents must specifically opt-out by contacting the MCPS administration.
- Beeks still has the lost and found items from the previous 2 school years. Mr. Mefford asked for volunteers to wash the clothes (Beeks will cover laundromat fees) and then donate the clothes to the Montgomery County Christmas Store.
- *Lunch Charges:* The unpaid lunch charges are mounting and the school district doesn't have the funding to cover these charges (last year the county paid over \$1000). For now, students will be allowed to purchase lunch if they have a negative balance. But, they will not be permitted to by milk IF they brought a lunch and have a negative balance. Families with a balance over \$10 have been notified. If a family is having financial difficulty, please contact the school to discuss possible means for assistance.

New Business:

- *Swing Set:* There have been requests for a swing set on the 3-5 grade play ground. A 6-8 swing swing-set costs \$1300-\$1600. Motion for the PTO to fund this. 1st = Jeanne, 2nd = Amy S. Vote = unanimous.
- *Restaurant Coordination:* Carly Weber has agreed to be the committee chair for this.
- *Metallophone:* Mrs. Gilliam has a 30 yr old bass metallophone that desperately needs replacement. The keys are out of tune, and the instrument is cheaply made, so cannot be refurbished. A new metallophone with stand costs about \$2000. The instrument is used at least weekly, and some weeks daily. Mr. Mefford with talk with Ms. Gilliam separately about funding options and then come to the PTO with a request for a specific funding amount.
- *Teacher Appreciation:* The Soup lunch went great in October. The next event is a Holiday Breakfast on Friday, Dec 17. Thank you to Elizabeth Briggs for organizing these events!
- *Karla Smith:* Karla's last day is Nov. 12. Motion was put forth to purchase a \$20 gift card for her. 1st = Laura Krish, 2nd = Nancy Massey. Vote = unanimous.

- *Books for Breakfast:* Sorting on Monday, Nov. 15--volunteers welcome. Next B4B is Nov 18. In October, there were 185 meals purchased and 182 books given away. The program is in need of books for grades K-2.
- *Wrapping Paper:* should arrive next week, since was guaranteed to be delivered before Thanksgiving break!