

Park Avenue Elementary School, Danbury CT

PTO Meeting - Tuesday 11/15/11

Attendance: 15

1. Opening: Joe Mead called the meeting to order at 7:05. He noted that attendance was light but there were several new parents present. Meeting agendas were passed out and a sign-in sheet circulated.
  - Meeting minutes from the 10/25/11 meeting were distributed for review. The minutes from PTO meetings are always posted on the PTO bulletin board. There have been some technical difficulties updating the minutes on the Park Avenue website. Geri Neyman made a motion to accept the minutes and Michelle Stanzone seconded the motion and noted a change to the minutes by updating the monies raised with the Walk-a-thon to \$949.86.
2. Principal Report: Mr. Krafick highlighted some news at Park Avenue School.
  - He moved the PTO bulletin board closer to the front door so parents can better access it.
  - As part of an overall school improvement plan to increase parental involvement, Chrissy Carboni and Gwen Gallagher came up with the idea of Reading Logs for all grades which parents sign each night. The first month resulted in 223 students (or 52%) returned the logs and they celebrated in the cafeteria with balloons. In the second month, 40 more students (or 62%) participated and celebrated with a hayride, donuts & apple cider. Next month's celebration will be a surprise and hopefully other students will be motivated. If anyone has any ideas for celebrating reading, please forward suggestions. Much credit is due to Mrs. Carboni & Mrs. Gallagher for continuing to make this a great program.
  - The fourth & fifth graders are at Nature's classroom for the week and all is well.
3. Budget: Geri Neyman presented the Treasurer's Report and Budget – copies were distributed to meeting attendees. We opted to keep the cash profits for the Fall Book Fair which totaled \$952, the Fall Fundraiser generated \$3,131, we made \$517 at the Bake Sale and the Walk-a-thon raised \$949. We have \$6,323 in the bank so we are in good shape.
4. Fundraising: Michelle Stanzone provided an update on the fundraising efforts to date.
  - The Bake Sale was a success and raised \$517. Joe worked the whole day and Mrs. Carboni brought in some family members to help out.
  - The Walk-a-thon not only generated \$949 but also promoted physical fitness. It was done during gym time so no instructional time was taken. All students participated and those students who brought in pledge sheets were eligible for raffle prizes. Mr. Krafick wants to piggy back on this with a running club in the Spring.
  - Joe stated that there is a green binder in the office where we can recap all fundraisers and events to have an idea of what works/doesn't work/supplies needed/etc. so events can be carried out in the future without having to reinvent the wheel.
5. Old Business:
  - Mr. Imre had previously requested the PTO to pay for scholarships for several students who cannot afford to rent musical instruments. There are 4 students so the initial investment would be \$120 for the first 3 months of rentals. Geri feels very strongly that PTO efforts should benefit all students and not just a select few. Mr. Imre needs to explore fundraising within the music department such as conducting a raffle at movie night or one of the concerts.

- The newsletter is behind schedule. Michelle Washington is working on it and it still needs to be translated. Goal is to send it bi-monthly.
- The online calendar is not as simple as Joe anticipated. Anyone with a Gmail account is still invited to view it. Ellen has posted a schedule of events for the year on the PTO bulletin board and we can have that posted on the website.
- Michelle continues to work on the Box Tops for Education. Instructions went out in September but Melissa suggested posting instructions on the bulletin board or website to remind parents.
- Laura Mead has volunteered to be the representative from Park Avenue for City-wide PTO. They are the first Monday of every month at Beaver Brook. Joe will distribute the minutes from the City-wide meetings.
- The babysitter for tonight's meeting had a conflict. We still hope to have childcare at future PTO meetings as there are a number of children attending.

6. New Business:

- Joe is still looking for ideas on how to expand the PTO and get more people involved. Mr. Krafick stressed the need to reach out to the Spanish and Portuguese community so asked that everyone present continue to come and bring friends. Melissa suggested holding an event before the meeting however that tends to make for a long evening. She also proposed incenting the students with free homework passes or lunch with the Principal if their parents attend meetings. Geri suggested a speaker. Mr. Krafick stated possibly mirroring efforts done for CMT Night such as having someone do a craft or reading/math enrichment for the students while their parents attend the meeting.
- The Holiday Shop is scheduled for November 28<sup>th</sup> – December 1<sup>st</sup>. Michelle needs volunteers to work and will send notices out on Monday. The Holiday Shop is an opportunity for the students to shop for gifts for their family members. All items are \$1. The assigned shoppers continue to purchase items. Wrapping paper donations are also requested.
- Ellen asked if Park Avenue was going to participate in the King Arthur's FREE Bread making enrichment program. Geri advised that it was set up for April 27<sup>th</sup>. It is a free assembly for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders where they use math and science techniques to teach kids how to bake bread from scratch. They are given flour and yeast and go home to make 2 loaves of bread with their families. They get to keep a loaf and bring in another to donate to charity.

7. Closing: The next meeting is January 11, 2012. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Ellen Meyst