

# Devon Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2010

**In attendance:** Dr. Tobin, Audrey Kese, Tricia Jennings, Tracey Sloan, Brenda Hess, Kelly Walker, Carli Younce, Eileen Dirkes, Amy Susanin, Kelly Lee, Lori Piccone, Lorann Wood, Coleen Hillman, Tricia Petrane, Cindy Krapels, Kathleen Bouhdary, Ricka Jenkins, Heather Hill, Chrissy Bennett, Claire Kennedy, Suzanne Emerson, Cindi Overton, Sabina Buser, Cathy Rains, Liz Denney, Cosette Elliott, Stephanie Thibault , Kelly Gracey

**Welcome/Introductions facilitated by Audrey Kese**

**Nicole Lohmeyer**

- She stopped in to thank the PTO for the new sound system for the gym. She also thanked the PTO, on behalf of the staff, for the money to purchase supplies. It is greatly appreciated.

**Principal's Report: Dr. TomTobin**

- Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> PTO meeting of 2010/2011
- *Blue Ribbon School Recipient:* He announced that Devon is a recipient of this prestigious award. He announced this at 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum night, and he will also announce it tomorrow at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade curriculum night. Devon was 1 of 304 schools nationwide to receive this award. Since 1982, the Blue Ribbon award has recognized achievement of students with a balance of Arts and social/emotional development. Dr. Tobin and Mrs. Hendrix will go to Washington, D.C. in November to receive the award. Dr. Tobin presented a small token to Audrey Kese to say thank you to all of us.
- *Word of the Week:* This is a new school wide program to enhance vocabulary development. All grades in the school will participate and use the word of the week. The first two words are: establish and decipher
- *PTO gifts:* Thanks for all the gifts for the teachers. We received many wonderful items: 6 flip cameras, 2 camcorders, new gym sound system and 8 netbooks.
- *Playground Expansion:* The new look was presented to the group. The playground will have an expanded mulch area, 3 new paths to access the area during wet weather, new spider climbing dome, new triple slide apparatus, and room for future

equipment. This project should be completed in October. We are still looking at outdoor science rooms, with the possibility to grow fruit/vegetables.

- *FLES*: Since FLES is gone this year, other language options have been explored by the PTO. Audrey Kese presented different options that were discussed at the PTO Presidents' meeting. The ones discussed were: parent taught after school club (downside is the insurance required), using a for-profit group like Global Kids to teach after school club (downside is cost, \$300/student), and a brochure (put together by the PTO) explaining to parents all the options in the community. Conducting a survey of Devon parents' interests was discussed. It was decided that the PTO will put together a survey to ascertain what type of language programs Devon parents would like to see offered, if any. The survey will be clear that it is for collecting information only. The PTO can not necessarily do anything. Audrey proposed having it ready for the next Dispatch.

#### **President's Report: Audrey Kese**

- *Presidents' Meeting*: Dan Waters urged everyone in the district to sign up to receive district emails. You can sign up online and it's a great way to stay informed.
- *Diversity Committee*: We need a representative from Devon for this district committee. Please contact Audrey if you have a suggestion for someone to fill this role. The person would attend 5 meetings during the school year and report back to the PTO.
- *District Calendar Changes*: If you have changes to the district calendar, please contact (in order) Dr. Tobin, Mr. Axel and Chris Connelly.

#### **Vice President's Report: Tricia Jennings**

- *Got a Minute Forms*: Received 120 forms so far. All chairs have received their names. All chairs should contact every volunteer now, even if the event is later in the year.

#### **Treasurer's Report: Cathy Rains**

- *Directories*: Advertising money is still coming in
- *School Supplies for Staff*: Checks have been issued, except for one person on maternity.

### **Cultural Arts: Lorann Wood**

- *Arts Express Week:* Theme is Circus this year. The Philadelphia School of Circus Arts will be here all week. Anyone interested in finding out more, can attend the kick off meeting on 10/7 at 9:30am, 3 Briar Road.

### **Fundraising: Amy Susanin and Cecilia Cooleen**

- *Fundraising Ideas:* Amy thanked the group for sharing their ideas for fundraising. Amy and Cecilia will meet with Dr. Tobin to discuss different opportunities to raise money for Devon, such as grant writing and The Halloween Store. Amy handed out a Fundraising checklist, which showed ways that we could start earning money for Devon today. She urged the Board to sign up for eScrip and the Target Program (for those of us who have a Target card already).

### **Social Functions: Coleen Hillman and Tricia Petrane**

- *Teacher Appreciation:* Kelly Walker and Suzanne Emerson volunteered to run the breakfast. Thanks!
- *Kindergarten Hospitality:* Thanks to Ricka Jenkins for coordinating
- *Ice Cream Social:* Went very well. Some pros and cons were:  
Pros ~ great kick off, no sports to compete with  
Cons ~ a little rushed, hard to get volunteers, missed some Kindergarten families because it was before school started for them.  
Suggestions ~ use cones or recyclable paper products to promote being "green", double the parent patrol, especially on sports' fields.
- *4<sup>th</sup> Grade Party:* Budgeted for \$2,035 or \$18.50/kid
- *Parent Suggestions:* Eileen Dirkes suggested father/daughter dance, like Beaumont. Audrey ran it there and confirmed it was a lot of work and didn't make much money. Kelly Walker suggested a Special Person Breakfast.

### **Issues, Affairs & Programs: Stephanie Thibault**

- *Volunteers:* We have lots of volunteers this year. Thanked Kelly Gracey for taking on the Beautification Committee.
- *Green Team:* Heather Hill launched our recycling program this year. She has been teaching kids in the cafeteria about recycling vs. throwing in the garbage. We are now recycling juice pouches, as well. The school store will now start selling "green"

items. We are also selling sandwich wraps and Kleen Kanteen with our Spirit Wear. Audrey thanked Heather for taking this upon herself and running with it.

### **School Services: Lori Piccone**

- *Homeroom Parents:* all full
- *Health Screenings:* Kim Maher filling all volunteer slots
- *Directory:* Ads are coming along
- *Creative Kids:* Liz Thompson is running and they are going home this Friday.
- *Spirit Wear:* Cindi Overton said forms are going in next Friday folder. There are pictures online and merchandise at curriculum nights. Lori suggested having inventory at other events. Also, promote Spirit Wear to parent volunteers at all school functions.
- *School Store:* Brenda Hess said the store is on target to open 9/27.
- *Picture Day:* Volunteers are being set up.
- *Dental Clinic:* All drivers will need background checks this year.

### **Miscellaneous**

- *Field Trips:* Dr. Tobin announced the school will no longer pay chaperone's admission on field trips.
- *Costumes:* Kelly Lee asked for costume donations to be sent to Tami Noel. Call her first to see what sizes are needed.

### **Upcoming PTO Events**

September

16<sup>th</sup> ~ 7pm Curriculum Night Lower Division

21<sup>st</sup> ~ Health Screenings

22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Picture Day

October

4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> ~ ERB Testing

8<sup>th</sup> ~ No School

11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Make-up ERB Testing

20<sup>th</sup> ~ PTO Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Fall Festival

29<sup>th</sup> ~ Halloween Parade