

Devon Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2009

In attendance: Kelly Lee, Evelyn Shreve, Susan Drennan, Stephanie Thibault, Dr. Tobin, Elaine Whiteman Klinger, Trish Connell, Barb Bogle, Susan Stuber, Francie Rosato, Nanette Chappellear, Wenxia Li, Tricia Jennings, Sheila Czepeil, Karen Friedman, Chrissy Bennett

Welcome

- Evelyn brought meeting to order, completed introductions and November's meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.
- Meeting minutes on web site need to be updated.

Dr. Joyce Videlock & Ms. Yvonne Slaninka – Special Education Services Update

- Dr Tobin introduced our speakers: Director of Student Services for entire school district (Dr. Joyce Videlock) and Yvonne Slaninka is a speech pathologist by training and is now going into special education supervision.
- They are visiting all PTOs to make population aware of the services.
- Today they spent 30 minutes reviewing the special education services offered to students. (please see attached).

Faculty Update: Nicole Sammler in absentia

- In process on summer camp. Dates are set but we have put a hold on announcing the camp for now due to space issues in the building. There may be conflicts with building works this summer. Dr.Tobin is holding on announcing the camp until we know the extent of the building works.

Principal's Report: Dr. Tom Tobin

- Devon participates in a Title One program. Our school qualifies for reading support and math support based upon the amount of the population that need it.
- We earned an award because for two years in a row we have made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) plus we are one of the top 25 schools in the state for mathematics. For this, Devon received a \$5000 award. Our funding typically goes towards our reading program. That money will go towards buying reading books texts etc for use across the school.
- Karen Friedman asked if we have enough budget for our special education. Dr. Tobin clarified that Title One is a different budget for normal class room needs

- Dr. Tobin recently sent reminders home in all the school folders regarding drop offs in the morning. Due to cold, wet weather, the parent drop offs are long and slow. He reminded everyone to not drop off on Fairfield road as it is too dangerous. Please be patient but get them to school on time to be in class by 8:50. They will be marked late if they are not in class by then. If they come by bus they will always been here on time. There will be more notifications about where it is acceptable to park and drop off children.
- Question on drop off. Many families are not utilizing the bus services. Some people at our meeting stated that this was due to the inconvenience of the bus stop. In some cases students need to cross a busy street. The general question was raised as to why so many students are not using the bus. Dr. Tobin responded to the points around inconvenience of the bus stops. Specifically, there are financial reasons why busses don't go down every cul de sac. Parents can call transportation to request a change to the bus routes. The current contractor is very responsive to requests.
- Yesterday the student body watched the inauguration. They saw the oval office, some saw the speeches and the swearing in. We hope it created a memory regarding democracy and the process.
- Many cultural arts activities are coming up. Please see the schedule at bottom of these minutes. In addition, a group called A Quiet Riot will be coming in to give an assembly on the issues around bullying. This is being offered to the entire student body. It will be an afternoon performance on February 12, 2009.
- 3rd grade doing their traditional Pow Wow to learn about American Indians
- 1st Grade has rain forest.
- Kindergarten has trip to planetarium
- Salute to soldiers.- The students have written letters that will go to our armed forces and the hope is to bring cheer to the forces. In addition, the students have supported a supply drive for supplies for the troops. It has been very successful.

President's Report: Evelyn Shreve

- Thanks to everyone for approving the increase in the camp fair budget.
- We need to approve an increase to the Holiday Crafts budget for approx. \$100 A motion was made and approved to increase the budget from \$500 to \$600. Next year we will have extra supplies so our budget will not increase.

Treasurer's Report: Stephanie Thibault

- Please see attached Treasurer's Report
- Highlights: Reformatted report to focus on different areas so chairs can see their category clearly. Cultural arts bills are paid. Working on getting tax reporting out. Kim Pittman is doing an audit. Filed our sales and use tax.
- A question was raised as to why we have so much money in the money market account? There is \$39,592 in account. The fund raisers lately have improved the balance. The school has received gifts but we have not had as much expenses as

we thought. We are still considering a playground plan and equipment. We also are concerned that the current economy may mean that our fund raisers are not as successful and we don't want to have to cut cultural arts in the future. Until the end of the year we don't know what we have. One expense that has been completed is the swing set. It is installed but waiting on mulch so the seats aren't installed.

Cultural Arts: Lauren Baran in absentia

- Dr. Tobin summed up cultural arts nicely. On behalf of Lauren, Kristin Schappell mentioned Lauren is working within her budget. Seussical the musical is the next show and the tickets are \$10.00. We are actually about half way through selling the seats. The show is on March 28.
- The Friendraiser tickets: As an update we hope that the Friendraiser is immune to the economic down turn. But should we raise the ticket from \$25 to \$35? Or should we raise it to \$50. Our ticket includes food and drink. The Middle school charges \$50 with a cash bar. We have had families donate the bar and food but we don't know how we will stand this year. We are concerned about raising the price and excluding families that cannot afford it.
- A motion was made to increase the ticket and approved with dissenting votes.
- A discussion on pricing then ensued. Higher attended parties tend to increase the auction bids though not always.
- A second vote was taken to increase the price by \$5 per ticket. The motion was made to increase price to \$30 and \$35 at the door. This motion was approved with no dissenting votes.
- Besides listing the donators in our directory and auction sheet, we need to personally thank all donators to our fund raisers.
- We need creative donations such as handy men, food services, party services, etc.

Fundraising: Elaine Whiteman Klinger

- Stephanie's treasurer report lists most of the updates on fundraisers.
- Box tops have been well communicated. There will be more notifications in the dispatch. We can try to run a contest for the most box tops collected. It is a consideration
- EScript is starting to increase. Genaurdis is a participant.

Camp Fair – Nanette Chappelle

- Nanette, has a list of camps that are coming. She is passing it around. It is sorted by category. Everyone needs to tell 10 friends about the camp fair. We have more camps coming this year than ever. They pay approx. \$150 to come to the fair. It doesn't cost Devon families anything and we have already raised \$13,000. It only takes two people to run the camp fair process. If the community

attendance is down this year, we will have a reduction in camp attendance next year. This year the Shipley fair went out of business. This has increased our camp attendance. This is the first year we have had a web site. People are finding us on the internet. Camp fair is Jan 28. www.mainlinecampfair.org Send the email site to friends and private schools. Last year we distributed 20,000 flyers and distributed to local schools. We are now down to 3000 due to people accessing the information electronically. We do need to increase our advertising to get the attendance up. Last year we had 500-600 people, We need to hit that number or higher again.

- Last year we had 8 Conestoga students to help set up. This year the camp fair is the night before the AP Physics exam and for that reason, the students will not be available. We need parents to meet greet and set up. Spread the word for help that night from 3-5, 4-6, etc.
- Should we have signs on route 30 and 202 (problematic) also, solicitation for food was confusing. We are also on In Wayne.com and other media sources. Some church bulletins may take advertising.

Social Functions: Karen Friedman

- The skating party is well ahead of the planning game. There is a new co-chair, Chrissie Benet. People will be arriving early to help with ticketing and monitoring on the skating floor.
- Pizza Bingo has another co-chair, Michelle Harvey. Last year we spent about \$510 on pizza. We made about \$1000 so we covered our expenses. Our budget this year is \$450 which was the same as last year. Is this the right amount or do we need to increase it as pizzas might go up this year. If we do pepperoni as well as cheese? We are going to keep it to cheese pizza only.

Issues, Affairs & Programs: Susan Stuber

- Susan Stuber – Flite program, they did not increase the budget for the snacks for students in after school program; they have just scaled back on snacks provided. MLK service day went very well with letters written to the troops
- Next round of clubs Feb 9-March 19. There will be 6-7 clubs offered
- The school board rep missed our last school board meeting and will attend the next one on Monday.
- BUILD – support group for parents with special need families. This group is in transition and needs better leadership.
- Turn off TV week. Meg Robertson is on board to run this the third week in April. There will be a bulletin board message.
- Go for the Green, part of Keystone healthy kids. Ruthie Critener helped with putting in a healthy recipe in the school folders. Willing to do it again. This is usually run in March.

School Services: Francie Rosato

➤ No big updates. We have field day in the spring and Dispatch is running fine.

Upcoming PTO Events:

January

22	9:15 and /10:30 AM	Cultural Arts – Chinese Paper Cutter
23		Cultural Arts – Day in the life of a soldier
28	5:30pm-8:30pm	Main Line Camp Fair – CHS
30	2:00pm-4:00pm	Ice Skating Party

February

6	6:00pm	Pizza Bingo
18	9:30am	PTO Meeting

Minutes Submitted by Sue Drennan, January 21, 2009