

Devon Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2008

In attendance: Kelly Lee, Evelyn Shreve, Susan Drennan, Lauren Baran, Karen Friedman, Stephanie Thibault, Dr. Tobin, Eleni Stavrianos, Elaine Whiteman Klinger, Coleen Hillman, Sheila Czepiel, Tom King, Cathy Rains

Welcome

- Evelyn brought meeting to order and last month's meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Principal's Report: Dr. Tom Tobin

- Update on anti-bullying. Students completed a survey in Spring 2008 on bullying. They answered questions on their feelings about being at Devon and how they felt about the atmosphere at Devon. A staff committee reviewed the results. To coordinate with these efforts, today Devon is holding a school climate assembly to focus on anti bullying. Some highlights from the survey:
 - 3-4 graders stated fewer than 20% said they were bullies or involved in bullying. The one in five children who were involved broke down the categories in the following manner.
 - Verbal bullying – 17% of girls and 18% of boys responded that they were verbally bullied
 - 12% of girls and 3% of boys were bullied by exclusion
 - 11% of girls and 7% of boys were bullied physically
 - 11% of girls and 7% of boys were bullied by rumors
 - Where did the children report bullying happens:
 - Largest number said on playground or athletic fields (69% girls 54% boys)
 - Lunchroom (39% girls 35% boys)
 - On school bus (36% girls and 27% boys)
 - In class (31% girls and 23% boys)
 - Reactions from a school peer. If you are a bystander and see bullying, what do you do? 72% of girls tried to intervene. 54% of boys said they tried to do something
 - Three key goals for bullying
 - Internally report and let parents know
 - Looked at hot spots for bullying and made procedural changes. We exit for recess from lunch room on a different route. New route allows for greater supervision
 - Teach the role of bystanders
 - Lunchroom now has two aides versus one to improve climate

- Devon will be focusing on what bystanders to bullying should do. The assembly today will be explaining what a bystander should do.
 - Compassion, Act and Tell. Compassion gives comfort to another child. Act – What do you do?? Ask student to stop or intervene in another way. Tell an adult. This assembly is in addition to other bullying prevention programs. There will be a video clip, a faculty skit and the 4th graders will hold up posters on compassion.
- Yesterday the CHS students were on campus and talked to the Devon kids about respect.
- Tom King talked about his experience with bullying at a Quaker school. The children were taught to temporarily ostracize students that bully. He felt it was powerful.
- Dr. Tobin responded about the environment at Devon and that we are focusing on how the bystander can help the bully redirect and do the right thing.
- Kelly Lee asked what % of population might be engaging in bullying behavior? Dr. Tobin stated that we could not discern that from this survey. We thought the number of students reporting bullying is relatively low. We compare our surveys to national averages and in general our numbers are low but we are focusing our efforts on the categories that are not up to national average.
- Update on last year's PTO gifts
 - The ice machine in the faculty room was installed but needs to be replaced
 - New screen is installed in Cafeteria
 - Remote mike is now available
 - Smart boards are now fully installed. Last two done this summer
 - Swings are ordered and on site but need to be installed.
- A question has been raised on next year's school calendar, There are three options under discussion but no decision has been made. Labor Day is extremely late this year causing the issue. The state has a move on to force districts to start after Labor Day so that businesses don't lose their summer help. The teacher's contract also has regulations as to when the teachers start- no sooner than the Wednesday before Labor Day. We have 182 school days in our year which is higher than the average and we want to stick with that. You can always let the school board know your input.

President's Report: Evelyn Shreve

- Phone chain. All of the emergency numbers have been distributed and we will be testing our manual system within the next couple weeks. The electronic system will also be going in to effect soon. Evelyn pushed most of the calls to the older kids in a family versus the younger kids. If the phone chain is shared by a couple parents in each class Each person might only have 6 to 7 calls.

Treasurer's Report: Stephanie Thibault

- Highlights: the directory should bring in \$1200 on ads.
- Innisbrook may be down a few hundred dollars
- Spirit wear looks stable
- Maximize box tops market place, Receipts EScript,
- Elaine stated that for personal purchases as well, beyond purchases for Devon, each eScript program gives a different % value back to the school. It is not consistent as to which program is going to give a better percentage.
- School clubs are up and running. We do have a slight deficit but it should be made up in Spring
- Ms. Sammler spent some money on equipment.

Vice Presidents Report: Kelly Lee

- Directories are out Loren Kundra and _____ did a fantastic job. We chose to put email addresses in. We only printed one email address even if the family gave two. Devon and TE middle are the only schools that chose to put email addresses in the directory. In the end, it did not make it a much bigger job to include them. Conlans gave us a good price for printing and were quick to turn it around.
- The Web site has a fast fundraising page on there. This is not the final version. This will raise up the item when looked for on google searches. Mr. Axel has been a great help.
- There is more detail on the web site than before and general comment in meeting is that it looks good.
- Kelly continues to make changes to the school sign and gets good comments regarding its content.

Cultural Arts: Lauren Baran

- Next program is with Thaddeus Rex and is entitled "Read like a Rock Star."
- In November the bee man will return for an assembly with the third graders.
- Due to some unfortunate circumstances, Lauren needs a new co chair for Arts Express week. Sheila Czepiel stated she can step up
- Delta District Show – Thaddeus Rex – read like a rock star community show will be Friday October 24 at 7:30 it is the same night as Fall Festival but a family could attend both.

Fundraising: Elaine Whiteman Klinger

- Diane Impoliti did a great job on gift wrap. Sales may be down due to cost of the gift wrap in comparison to what you can buy in the stores. Also the minimum order amount for free shipment was raised which could have impacted sales.
- Boxtops – Suzanne Emerson is focusing on how to grow that program. We don't want to leave money on the table. She reported that she has already received \$337 dollars. She has another \$100 to put in. So please continue to send in your

- boxtops. If she has the time, she may put an ad in the lobby to ask people to do more. If we have a promoting to increase sign ups we can also increase money
- ACME is underway
 - Target cards can be designated to Devon
 - Spring Fair booths, Pacita is already working on what needs to be fixed or rebuilt for Spring Fair maintenance.
 - Friendraiser, Kristin Chappelle had coffee at her house and is organized. Friendraiser will be held at the Graser's house this year. In addition, they are considering a neighborhood fundraiser category at Friendraiser such as a neighborhood basket for raffle.
 - Camp Fair – Nanette is making progress there.
 - Cindi Overton did a great job on Spirit wear.
 - There is a perception that people are holding back on discretionary spending. Elaine will be summarizing all the ways we can raise money that do not cost us anything.

Social Functions: Karen Friedman

- Fall Festival has a tremendous amount of volunteers. A lot of the supplies were purchased at Oriental trading
- Prizes at Spring Fair may be handled differently and looking into how we can make money/save money there.
- Two events were needed to be decided- holiday craft now has some potential dates December 3-5. We may need to rearrange some Girl Scout troops. A discussion about which two of those three days will work best. Karen will check with the office on securing the dates. In addition, the skating party will be on January 30, 2009. Karen Moon will be getting a contract to Stephanie

Issues, Affairs & Programs:

- Susan Stuber not hear but Francie reported that Mileage club up to a great start. 172 toe tokens were given out on the first two days in comparison to 40 toe tokens in same time frame last year. All mileage spots are filled

School Services: Francie Rosato

- Book Fair is set for November. Charu Gandhi will be running the fair. Cathy Rains mentioned that last year the book fair ran out of books and the lines were very long. Orders were placed at 4pm for books to arrive the next day but books are still sold for 3 hours past 4pm. There process needs to be adjusted to reduce the issues. Thanks you to Sheila for stepping up on picture day

Upcoming PTO Events:

October		
21	9:15/10:15 AM	Cultural Arts – Read like a Rock Star
24	6:00 PM	Fall Festival
31	2:00 PM	Halloween Parade and Parties
November		
6		Cultural Arts, - Beeman (3 rd Grade)
13	11:00-1:00	Picture Retake Day
19	7:00 PM	PTO Meeting

Minutes Submitted by Sue Drennan, October 15, 2008