

Devon Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2010

In attendance: Kelly Lee, Dr. Tobin, Audrey Kese, Stephanie Thibault, Francie Rosato, Tricia Jennings, Tricia Petrane, Coleen Hillman, Lorann Wood, Brenda Hess, Cathy Rains, Lori Piccone, Heather Hill, Amy Susanin, Evelyn Shreve

Review and Approval of Minutes

The April PTO Meeting minutes were approved. Lori will submit to Katrina Wester for posting on devonpto.org.

Principal's Update: Dr. Tobin

Upcoming Events

- The 1st grade field trip to the Phila. Zoo is coming up.
- The 2nd grade Prelutsky play is scheduled on the same day as the 3rd grade field trip—we changed the play to accommodate parents who have children in grades 2 and 3. A letter will be going home announcing the change.
- The 4th grade party will be on June 9th at Grand Slam.

School Gifts:

The following gift ideas were submitted by staff and parents. We hope the PTO will consider these gifts for the 2010-2011 school year:

1. Audio system for gym: estimated at \$6,000
 2. Ongoing playground improvements as recommended by the Playground Committee
 3. Netbook computers and software (8) estimated at \$565 each. The “Odyssey” language arts software was piloted this year in Mrs. Smiles’ class. This great program will be able to continue with the additional Netbooks.
 4. Digital camcorders (3) for filming events: estimated at \$150 each.
 5. Courtyard improvements—this is a long-term project that may require a planning committee. One suggestion was an outdoor science room.
 6. Permanent displays in school—both the cafeteria and lobby could use some welcoming touches. Perhaps an artist can come in and work with the students to create inviting displays.
- It was noted that parents can always donate gifts to the school; some people prefer giving one-time gifts instead of participating in various fundraisers throughout the year. Interested parents should contact their child’s teacher, Dr. Tobin, or a member of the PTO for gift suggestions.
 - A suggestion was made to keep a running wish list on the PTO website for interested parents to reference.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Rains

Cathy presented the 2010-2011 budget for approval. She received input from all PTO Vice Presidents and chairpersons and tried to stay close to their recommendations. Overall, many

budgets were increased due to increased enrollment. She also said to remember that the budget is a guideline that is negotiable throughout the year. Some other notables are:

- We will need to increase some other fundraisers to make up for the loss of the Acme receipts.
- Gift wrap sales have been going down over the years.
- We are hoping that the Book Fair will bring in more sales due to increased enrollment.
- We will increase the Cultural Arts budget by \$1,500 to account for increased enrollment.
- We increased Beautification.
- We will keep the same budget for National Nutrition Month.
- School Clubs are supposed to be a “break-even” event, but we usually end up making money.
- The Ice Cream Social budget is increased for enrollment.
- The budget will allow for refreshments and a token gift for speakers for Parents Speaker Bureau.

Vice President’s Report: Audrey Kese

- Audrey presented the 2010-2011 proposed slate of PTO officers. All those at the meeting voted to pass the slate.
- We are still in need of a few committee chairpersons, including Arts Express Week, merchandise rebates programs coordinator, and a BUILD representative (a group of T/E parents who organize speakers, etc.)

President’s Report: Kelly Lee

Spring Fair:

- Thank you everyone for helping; the weather looks great for our biggest social event of the year.
- The CHS “Three Cups of Tea” club members will be staffing the Midway games.
- Riverbend will be hosting four nature shows throughout the night.
- The Cake Walk and dinner will be inside.
- There will be no souvenirs table.
- There will be no sponsors at the Spring Fair because we did so well with the Friendraiser.

Misc.

- The June 9th PTO meeting will be at Kelly’s house, where we will vote on the budget and school gifts.
- There are only two Devon Dispatches left.
- Meg Robertson will put information in the Dispatch about signing up for Homeroom Parent for the 2010-2011 school year.

Issues, Affairs, and Programs: Stephanie Thibault

- **Turn-it-Off Week** went well; the team put together a package of great ideas. We will decide what to do with the leftover bracelets from this year and reassess the prizes for next year.

Cultural Arts: Lorann Wood and Linda Murray

- **Arts Express Week:** We have been in touch with several circus programs about next year's theme (Cirque Du Jour and the Phila School of Circus Arts).
- Other assemblies throughout the year will be Kate McMullen (visiting author) and Step Africa and more.
- The Indian dancers will be performing on May 28. They will give four performances with a Q&A session for the 3rd grade who is studying Native American history. The dancers were arranged and paid for by the Naimoli family and Microsoft Corp. The PTO paid for the dancers' expenses while visiting.

Social Functions: Coleen Hillman and Brenda Hess

- The Teacher Appreciation Breakfast is being coordinated by Andrea Voehringer. The PTO will make a donation to the Lion's Club in retiring nurse Marti Engel's name. Kelly will present it at the breakfast.
- The 4th grade yearbook looks great.
- Karen Friedman will put a notice in the Friday folders about the 4th grade party at Grand Slam on June 9th.

School Services: Francie Rosato

- Meg Robertson will produce and distribute a flier asking for Homeroom Parents for the 2010-2011 school year. The HR parent for each grade coordinator will also be responsible for relaying various Cultural Arts information to the teachers. This additional responsibility will be noted in Meg's flier.
- We will be doing a trial run of the electronic delivery of the Devon Dispatch. We need to find out how many paper copies we will still need for those families who cannot receive electronic files.

Upcoming PTO Events:

May

- 19 PTO Meeting 9:30 a.m.—vote on Officers, present Budget
- 21 Spring Fair 4:30-8 p.m.
- 28 CA Indian Dancers

June

- 2 Kindergarten orientation
- 3 Field Day
- 4 Field Day rain date
- 9 Final Meeting/Coffee—pass Budget/School Gifts; 4th grade party