

Devon Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2010

In attendance: Kelly Lee, Dr. Tobin, Audrey Kese, Stephanie Thibault, Francie Rosato, Tricia Jennings, Elaine Klinger, Coleen Hillman, Lorann Wood, Linda Murray, Jen Neely, Cindi Overton, Claire Kennedy, Heather Hill

President's Report

PTO President Meeting:

- There has been a lot of discussion about whether or not the elementary school PTOs should sponsor language clubs in light of the elimination of FLES.
- The Devon PTO is opposed to the idea because our after-school clubs are non-academic. A six-week Spanish club would not fill the FLES gap. Dr. Tobin pointed out that if we were to offer a language club, it would be more of a cultural experience rather than a chance to learn the language.
- Beaumont has a year-round language club that is paid for by parents. VFES also has outside language program providers who rent school space.
- Jen Neely asked if we could publish a list of outside foreign language programs for parents' information. We agreed that this would be a good idea.

National Nutrition Month

- Ruthy Christner is spearheading an "Eat a Rainbow" program designed to teach students of the importance of eating different colored fruits and vegetables. Throughout March, Ruthy and parent volunteers will have Taste Testing tables in the cafeteria during lunch. Each week will feature a different color (i.e., "red" week will have the kids tasting red peppers, grape tomatoes, etc.)
- In addition, each student will have a take-home sheet to track their home consumption of fruits and vegetables. Upon returning the checklist, the students will get a rainbow pencil.
- The PTO approved \$550 for Ruthy's program—this is approx. \$1/student and includes the pencils, stickers, and all food for the taste tests.
- Ruthy will also host a short informational assembly in the LGR for all classes throughout the day on March 1.
- Lori Piccone is in the process of rounding up parent volunteers to help at the assemblies and with the lunchroom taste testings.

Principal's Update: Dr. Tom Tobin

- The school calendar has been revised to make up for the snow days. The last day of school is scheduled for June 18. If we have any more snow days, days will be taken away from Spring Break.

- TESD holds 182 days of school for students; state regulations say students must complete 180 days of school. These days **MUST** be completed as approved by the School Board.
- Dr. Tobin will publish student drop-off and pick-up guidelines again to encourage parents to be patient and cautious. The inclement weather has led to lots of backups and unsafe student drop-off locations.
- Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for March 3, 4 and 5.
- The Head Custodian position has not been permanently filled yet.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Rains

- Innisbrook fell just \$67 short of budget, which is good.
- The Camp Fair raised approximately \$15,000!
- We are still waiting to hear from several grade chairpersons regarding the Grade Wish Lists.
- Pizza bingo was cancelled so there are no expenses.*
- School clubs are moving along nicely.
- A district grant has been secured to pay for the PUSH Physical Theater.
- See the Treasurer's Report 1/20/10—2/16/10 for more details.

*Note: We will store Pizza Bingo prizes for next year.

Faculty Update: Nicole Lohmeyer

- She has already gotten positive responses for the Devon Dragons Fun Camp this summer.
- She is finalizing last-minute insurance costs; she expects the costs to remain the same as last year.
- The camp counselors will be Mr. Smondrowski, Mrs. Lohmeyer, Mr. Hyett, Ms. Dudrick and Miss McElvogue.
- Official camp registration forms will go out in March.

Vice President's Report: Audrey Kese

- **Spring Fair:** we're thinking about taking one inflatable away, which would save \$1,000. We could replace it with a dunk tank, photo booth, DJ, etc. There will be no "hair paint" because of the alleged allergic reaction last year, but we will keep face painting.
- **Innisbrook school supplies:** Innisbrook sells bundled school supplies for approx. \$20. This would not be a fundraiser! The supplies can be shipped directly to homes. The PTO is undecided if we will administer this for next year.

Cultural Arts: Linda Murray and Lorann Wood

- PUSH Physical Theater is coming on March 17th.

- The YAEP Artist Showcase will be March 9; students and parents are welcome to attend.
- The Indian River Dancers are scheduled for next year.
- Author Kate McMullen is scheduled for November 2010.
- We're looking for an Arts Express theme for 2011. According to the rotation, it is supposed to be "Circus", but we'd be open to a new idea. Please contact Linda or Lorann with any suggestions.

Issues, Affairs & Programs: Stephanie Thibault

- We have established a TV Turnoff Week budget of \$75 to pay for graphic design for posters, etc.
- School Clubs: we have 127 kids participating; Nicole Lohmeyer noted that Tues. pick-up will be tough because of after-school sports and the school clubs. Stephanie agreed to email club participants' parents urging them to come at 4:30 for pick-up (after-school sports picks up at 4:20).

School Services: Francie Rosato

- Class picture day will be March 23rd; Kim Wetzel is coordinating parent volunteers.
- The school store has had some scheduling difficulties with the snow days.
- We're starting to look at distributing the Devon Dispatch electronically next year.
- Francie is looking into changing vendors for the Book Fair; she has heard good things about Children's Book World in Haverford. Tricia Jennings added that she has worked with CBW in the past and they've been wonderful.

Fundraising: Elaine Klinger

- The Friendraiser is scheduled for April 17th
- New location will be Lee and Bethany Dinenberg's house; parking will be at the Strafford Train Station.
- We're still working on donations and are especially asking for personal donations of time and/or services (e.g., parent Jay Jennings will donate tutoring services).

Social Functions: Coleen Hillman

- Coleen passed around a mock-up Friendraiser invitation designed by Meg Robertson.
- Kim Carey is coordinating captains for the Friendraiser neighborhood baskets; she's having a hard time finding captains.
- Pizza Bingo will be cancelled this year due to lack of parking.

Other business:

- The "Help for Haiti" box in the lobby generated \$612 from the kids and parents; this was sent to the American Red Cross.
- Kate Campbell will coordinate a shoe drive for Haitian orphans; she will put an ad in the Devon Dispatch and place a bin in the lobby. She will take the collected

- shoes to her employer (Ursinus College) who is working with a church to ship the shoes.
- Barb Bogle is our first speaker for the PTO Speakers Bureau; we'll see what the turnout is and what response we get.

Upcoming PTO Events

February

- 18th—Parents Speaker Bureau 7-8:30 featuring Barb Bogle
22-26th—Art Goes to School

March

- 3-6th—Conference Days; no students on March 4th or 5th
9th—YAEP Artist Showcase 9-12:00
17th—PUSH Physical Theater
23rd—Class Picture Day
24th—PTO Meeting 9:30 a.m.
26th—April 2nd—Spring Break