

## Devon Elementary School PTO Meeting Minutes

**March 24, 2010**

**In attendance:** Kelly Lee, Dr. Tobin, Audrey Kese, Stephanie Thibault, Francie Rosato, Tricia Jennings, Elaine Whiteman Klinger, Coleen Hillman, Lorann Wood, Cindi Overton, Brenda Hess, Cathy Rains, Lori Piccone, Diana Empoliti

### **Welcome/Introductions**

Elaine passed around a “thank you” card from Mrs. Rohn thanking the PTO for the 40+ “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” books. The books were donated by Wal-Mart when Elaine solicited them for the Friendraiser silent auction. The remaining books will be used as part of the *Insectarium* birthday party package for the silent auction.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes**

The February PTO meeting minutes were approved. Lori will forward to Katrina Wester for placement on the PTO website.

### **Principal’s Update: Dr. Tobin**

#### ***Calendar Update:***

- The PSSA tests for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will start on April 7 and run for six days. The snacks for each class have been taken care of by the homeroom parents.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking a “science” PSSA also.

#### ***Teacher In-Service Days:***

- On March 5 the focus was on Daniel Pink’s best-selling book “A Whole New Mind.” In the book he explains why the right-brained thinkers will rule the future. He believes that Americans will value beauty, narratives, inventions—creativity in all forms. One in nine jobs will move overseas in the next few years; Americans need to take a different approach in educating our children. As a result, the T/E School District has a long-term goal of teaching our kids to think more creatively.
- Monday March 29, University of Pennsylvania psychologist Angela Duckworth will discuss her work on the topic of “True Grit.” Her belief is that those who have passion and perseverance will be successful. We must teach our children determination and self-control, as well as the importance of effort and focus.

#### ***Videotaping School Events:***

Stephanie said that a parent asked about the school videotaping big events (Chinese festival, etc.) and selling the DVDs to the parents. We discussed how this could be a problem for families who do not approve of their kids being videotaped or photographed. We could also get into copyright issues with song lyrics, music, etc. An alternative would be for a parent or teacher to videotape an event and allow interested parents to borrow and return it.

### **President’s Report: Kelly Lee**

***Reading of by-laws for Officers for 2010-2011:***

At the April 21<sup>st</sup> PTO meeting, the nominating committee (Audrey Kese and Lori Piccone) will present the nominees for the 2010-2011 PTO Board. A vote will be taken at the May meeting.

***Spring Fair:***

- The Spring Fair is planned for May 21<sup>st</sup>; Diana Empoliti will help Kelly with coordination. These Chairperson positions are still open for next year.
- The fair will have one inflatable and other substituted items for the 2<sup>nd</sup> inflatable (still TBD).
- We are making it more community oriented this year with an environmental booth and possibly a fire dept. and/or police dept. booth.
- No hair painting this year.
- Lorann mentioned that we need two more themes for the classroom baskets for the Spring Fair raffle. She will get ideas and feedback.

***President's Meeting:***

- There are new guidelines from the Health Dept. regarding social functions. Kelly will make sure that the appropriate people are notified.
- The Devon Dispatch will be distributed electronically next year. The school district will take responsibility for compiling the emails. Distribution is TBD (link within an email, etc.). Kelly is also asking Karen Burns about what from the 1<sup>st</sup> day packets can be distributed electronically.

**Treasurer's Report: Cathy Rains**

***Acme receipts:***

- The chairperson is having trouble getting in touch with the right person at Acme. Acme still owes us money. Elaine said she would look into it.
- The program is closing down on April 21<sup>st</sup>, so we will need to get a final count soon.
- Acme is willing to offer a prepaid card program; it may be an administrative burden to the PTO. We most likely will not participate.

***Miscellaneous:***

- The Camp Fair raised almost \$15,000.
- The grade wish lists are coming in slowly.
- School Clubs did well.
- Devon Dragons Fun Camp money is starting to trickle in.

**Fundraising: Elaine Klinger**

***Friendraiser (April 17):***

- Donations have been going great; many businesses and family donations.

- At the TE Middle School's recent auction, a number of the teachers offered creative donations - such as playing a softball game with a group of the students. We've asked our teachers if any of them might like to donate similarly creative auction items.
- Thus far we do not have any vacation homes or jewelry donations. We discussed making expiration dates very clear, especially on vacation properties.
- Marla and Kim report that the neighborhood baskets are going well; we're hoping that participation in the neighborhood basket will prompt people to come to the event.
- The Friendraiser website is up and running. It includes the menu, donations, etc.
- The committee still needs help with set-up and clean-up the night of the event.

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

We are working on filling the Board and chairperson positions for next year. Audrey and Lori (the nominating committee) will present the proposed slate at the April 21<sup>st</sup> PTO meeting.

**IAP: Stephanie Thibault**

TV Turnoff Week (April 19) has been renamed "Turn it Off Week" to include computers and video games. Jeanine O'Mara is working with a committee on ideas to make the week a success.

**Cultural Arts: Lorann Wood**

- The PTO needs to set up a cafeteria account to buy bottled water for outside performers (assemblies, Arts Express week, etc.)
- PUSH Physical Theater was great.
- Arts Express Week with the Walnut Street Theater is moving along smoothly.

**Social Functions: Brenda Hess and Coleen Hillman**

***4<sup>th</sup> Grade Party:***

- Karen Friedman reported that the party will be at Grand Slam USA on June 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. The party package includes laser tag, mini golf, basketball courts, and party rooms.
- Students will need their own transportation.
- Instead of providing pizza, the volunteer parents will bring appetizers and snacks.
- Karen is looking into the 4<sup>th</sup> grade gift—possibly a magnetic picture frame that the kids can hang in their lockers at T/E Middle School next year.

**School Services: Francie Rosato**

Francie is working on getting the School Services chairperson positions filled for next year.

**Upcoming PTO Events:**

**April**

7-14—PSSA Testing

7—ARCH Speaker Bob Rigby at CHS at 7 p.m.

17—Fundraiser

21—PTO Meeting at 9:30; present Officer slate

**May**

3-7—Arts Express Week with Walnut Street Theater

13—Spring Concert

21—Spring Fair 4:30-8 p.m.