

****NEXT PTO MEETING TO BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2011, 4pm, Elementary School****

**Rochester School PTO Meeting
January 11, 2010
4pm, 3rd Grade Classroom**

Present: Amy Braun, Barbara Shenton, Gretchen Cotell, Claudia Sherwin, Elissa Klingensmith, Jolanta Labejsza, Liz Steventon, Jennifer Wagner, Katy Landwehr, Marnie Wikel

Guest: Gavin Curtis, Student Council President

1. **Lisa Cruikshank Stepping Down from PTO:** Email from Lisa Cruikshank regarding her stepping down from the PTO was read and the PTO is starting with a clean slate.
2. **Discussion and Election of Officers:** Gretchen Cotell has shown an interest in becoming the President of the PTO. Liz Steventon asked if we needed to elect officers. There was discussion would officers be needed. Claudia Sherwin noted we need to have officers to get anything done and have someone driving it, reporting it. Claudia Sherwin made a motion to elect a slate of officers. The following officers were nominated and elected: Gretchen Cotell as President; Liz Steventon as Secretary; Claudia Sherwin as Treasurer and Sue Domas as Vice President and Amy Braun to be Teacher Representative to the PTO.
3. **Gavin Curtis, Student Council President,** was asked to attend the meeting as it was brought up at the December meeting. Gavin had approached the students around the school and on Facebook to get ideas of what they wanted changed or where they could use improvements. Gretchen asked how many students were on the Student Council. There are two students from each class in the high school and middle school. The class elects the student council members and they meet the 2nd and 4th week of each month. Recently talking about taking the lunch garbage that people just throwing away (like apples) and getting a compost for a local farm. There was a suggestion to speak with Jennifer Kennett. Gretchen is on the Farm to School Committee and was going to check into it.
 - a) Discussion about educating the children about composting, getting teachers on board, making this a PTO event to help Kristi Fuller with composting. Kristi has the composting barrels to get things going.
 - b) Elementary to Middle School Match Up Day that was held last year. Not sure which classes, but maybe a few times during the year. Last year a mobile was made by with Kindergarten and 6th graders. The 4th and 10th graders played kick ball and Capture the Flag.
 - c) Have the National Honor Society match up with elementary students for lunch once a month was brought up by Katy Landwehr. Have a high school student at each table during lunch.
 - d) Terry Paquette is the coordinator for the National Honor Society.
 - e) National Honor Society has community service hours to satisfy.
 - f) Gavin was asked to get back to Gretchen in 1week from 1/11/11 if there is interest from the students to assist with the paper mache rabbit for the WinterFest Parade.
 - g) Amy Braun and Gavin are going to stay in contact.
- 3) **WinterFest:** Amy Braun discussed that the PTO is auctioning a lap quilt for the Winterfest which is Feb. 6. There was some discussion about what the PTO can do. Barb Shenton discussed the Year of the Rabbit for Lunar New Year. Making a

paper mache rabbit head for the parade. It was also discussed that possibly the PTO mother's along with their children could work on the paper mache. The PTO is raffling a lap quilt as well as face painting. We would like to also have another event in the wings to promote at the WinterFest. It was discussed we need a separate meeting to discuss the WinterFest. The PTO will email people regarding the WinterFest instead of having a formal meeting.

- 4) **Rochester School PTO Questionnaire Form: 2011** was discussed by Gretchen. The form was to be filled out to find out what everyone's interests are it helps to organize events better and designate people.
- 5) **Parent Dance Night Fundraiser** was brought up as a fundraiser for parents to attend. A nominal fee is charged for Pierce Hall and possibly the Disco Night could be held there. The subject of on or offsite babysitting was brought up so that more people would attend.
- 6) **Idea from a PTO Website:** Gretchen saw on a PTO website that no member ever has to work one whole event. The PTO members split it the time working on a event so that each person can also enjoy whatever event we plan to hold.
- 7) **Game Night** was discussed by Elissa Klingensmith as she had success with it at the library. Maybe this could be a PTO event for families. To be discussed.
- 8) **Change of the Meeting Date:** We would like to change the meeting date to Thursday's at 4pm. There was a discussion if the meeting would be every three weeks or once a month. It was decided to have the meeting once a month. The Thursday change is also so that Mary Sue Crowley, Principal, will be able to attend our meetings.
- 9) **Google Website RochesterSchoolPTO.org** as it has a calendar. A link to this additional calendar will be put on the Rochester School website where the PTO has a page.
- 10) **Book Fair** for the spring sponsored by the PTO. Either with Bud and Bella's in Randolph or a Scholastic Book Fair. Also to have a used book sale as a piggyback with the Book Fair. Liz is going to research and hope to have the information for the Feb. 3rd PTO Meeting. Jennifer Wagner also mentioned a used book sale for the parents after hours. Funding for the former sale was with Title I and also the Teacher's Association monies. Will check into that.
- 11) **Ted Scheu** was also discussed as an email was sent to the Elementary Teachers.
- 12) **February is "I Love to Read Month."**
- 13) **Fundraising for Middle and High School Classes:** Jennifer Wagner presented that she will be working Mary Sue and raising money for individual classes. A fundraising hand-out given from Sue Domas will be attached with these minutes as opportunities available for fundraising. Multiple class fundraisers-if there is money left over would like to donate to PTO, but Amy was going to check into where it will go.
- 14) **Childcare** for PTO Meeting: Discussed to approach Gavin to see if any National Honor Society members would be interested in watching the children during the next PTO meeting.
- 15) **Still to be discussed:** Rochester Elementary Store: The store originated with Christian Ingemni, a former PTO member. It was very profitable. Then Peg Booth took over the store. We are hoping to get the store started again. The students enjoyed it. It was held on Wednesday mornings from 7:30 to 8am in the Cafeteria.

NOTE: If there are things that you would like to have added to the Agenda, please contact Gretchen Cotell, PTO President.

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