

PTO MINUTES

Dec. 14, 2010

Present: Liz Steventon, Sue Domas, Claudia Sherwin, Katy and Tim Landwehr

This was my first meeting without Lisa Cruikshank and I didn't take notes like she usually did, but here is what was discussed.

Projects:

- 1) 2nd Annual Bring a Buddy to Lunch program- we would like to hold this in the spring. A date to be discussed. Plan and learn from last year's experience.
- 2) Book Fair-maybe work with the new bookstore in Randolph, Bud & Bella's (the former owner's daughter). Talk with Ellen Seeger as this was funded with Title 1 Literacy Program.
- 3) Bring an author to the school. Ted Scheu was a visiting author that the children really liked. Not sure what his schedule is, but we can check into it and see if we could possibly have him come in the spring.
- 4) For future meetings to possibly get more interest, will ask to put the meeting announcement on the Rochester School sign board outside the school, on the school website, press release in the Herald and also posters around town and on the doors at the school.
- 5) Would love to have the Student Council president try to attend a PTO meeting to update us on what's going on in the school and give us some input as to how the PTO can assist the school.
- 6) Everyone commented on the cover for the sandbox as well as the sign at the playground. We were curious where things were at with the \$2,000 grant from the Turrell Fund that needed to be used by Dec. 1, 2009. Will check into this.
- 7) Regarding the playground Liz mentioned that some students commented on how they missed the old playground. Claudia has a good reply to give next time that is mentioned. Ask the children what they would like to see added to the playground and we could possibly fundraise to get those items.
- 8) Wondering where things stood regarding the final touches that were to be made to the tower so that students wouldn't be able to climb up into the tower.
- 9) Have PTO members with brochures at the movie nights to get people interested in joining the PTO. Possibly fundraise by selling refreshments. Katy inquired if the Movie Night could be changed to Saturday as kids aren't attending CVY which is on Friday evenings. Will check with Jeannette Bair and MarySue Crowley.

- 10) Put a press release into the Herald, Rocket Times as well as the Rochester School website as to the positive things that the Rochester PTO is doing.
- 11) Create a Facebook Page for Rochester PTO. Tim Landwehr mentioned that Jeff Mills has a Facebook page for the sports and it had worked out great and has gotten a positive response. This could help the PTO become more recognizable.
- 12) Discussed having a guest speaker come to the school to talk about cyber bullying, high school dating and bullying in the school. Liz had spoken with Lisa Blair regarding the story of a 13 yr. old student named Ryan Halligan who was from Essex Jct, VT. He committed suicide after bullying from his classmates in real life and cyber bullying online. His father John lobbied for laws to be passed in Vermont to improve how schools address bullying and suicide prevention. He has given speeches and thought it would be a great idea to have him come speak to the students. Claudia also mentioned having someone come to speak from Safeline to discuss high school dating, online problems.
- 13) Claudia Sherwin would like to see us get a mentoring program going at the school. Maybe have National Honor Society students to be matched with a elementary student. On the same lines at Windsor County Partners, but to have an older student to look up to.
- 14) Teacher Appreciation Day - thinking ahead to May and what we would like to do to show our appreciation to our teachers.
- 15) Talked about websites we can look to: **ptotoday.com** and **schoolfamily.com** for great ideas and to support our children's learning.
- 16) QPP was briefly mentioned. Would like to work with them on spreading the news of drug and alcohol use and how we can work together.

Fundraising:

- 1) School store did get discussed briefly, but needs to be brought up at the next meeting to see if someone would like to run it. Would also like to see a 11 or 12th grader to run it as sometimes they are in the cafeteria for breakfast which is when we use to offer the school store.
- 2) Campbell's Labels for Education- 1,840 labels were just sent in. There is a promotion where the points will be doubled. Will email the teachers the catalog as it's now online.
- 3) Price Chopper Tools for Schools - circulated the form to get more people to sign up their Advantage Card. Also their Advantage card can connect to the Campbell's Labels for Education website by going

to:www.elabelsforeducation.com. You can register your Price Chopper Advantage Card number and build up Campbell's Labels for Education points.

- 4) The Box Tops for Education Program is assisted by the PTO with their collections. The Box Tops has brought in \$300 which is being used to purchase sleds.
- 5) Funding Factory is a source that we have been using to redeem our printer cartridges and cell phones. Currently we have \$89.90 is we wanted to receive a check and 224.76 points that can be redeemed in their online catalog.
- 6) Going to check into the Hannaford Grocery Program for next year. Their program runs from September 5 to December 5. Claudia is going to check into this for next year and see what we need to do to get on board.

Next PTO meeting: Tuesday, January 11, 2011, 4pm in the 3rd Grade Classroom