

## PTA Meeting January 11, 2011

The general meeting of the Accomsett Elementary PTA was called to order at 10:10am on Tuesday, January 11, 2011.

In attendance: Ellen Kyranakis, Janet Burkert, Allyson Gelfand, and Mrs. Feliciano.

The minutes of the November 9, 2010 General PTA Meeting were accepted. Copies were made available to the general audience.

### **Correspondence**

- Several "Thank You" notes from teachers for the books donated from the book fair were passed around in the Correspondence Binder.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Balance as of December \$46,042.66. Copies of three reports were made available to the general audience: November, December, and the REVISED Adopted Budget (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011). The following changes were presented at the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, voted on and accepted:

1. PARP budget has been increased from \$3000 to \$3500, for a total increase of \$500. PTA is now covering the cost of hot cocoa, which will be incorporated into one of the days in PARP.
2. Cultural Arts budget has been increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000, for a total increase of \$5000. This will allow for a few more in school assemblies, as well as a night time assembly for the entire family. Tentative date for the night time assembly is February 18<sup>th</sup>.
3. Field Day budget has been increased from \$650 to \$5000, for a total increase of \$4350. This is to buy field day t-shirts for all of the students.

### **Teacher's Representative**

- Thank You for all of books donated from the book fair.
- The Holiday Cookie Swap was a lot of fun.
- The children really enjoyed and learned a lot from the cultural arts assembly "Seasons of Miracles".

### **Principle's Report**

- Thanks and praise to Mrs. Kyranakis for following up with Superintendent Ehmann on the "well" at the front entrance to the school. Gappsi has recently completed the work around the well (at no cost to us) and it looks beautiful. Thank you Mrs. Kyranakis!
- They are currently in the process of hiring a permanent Assistant Principal. Second level interviews are taking place this week. They will be looking for Board of Education approval at their January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thanks to both Mr. Borden and Mrs. Micciche for stepping in as interim assistant principals. Mrs. Micciche is truly great with the kids.
- At a recent district Health & Wellness meeting, several changes that have been made were discussed, such as better choices in vending machines and at lunchtime. The Health & Wellness committee has made a request for additional changes related to serving of home baked goods in the classroom. At this time, no changes are being made

in Accomsett Elementary. Mrs. Minarik will await direction from the Board of Education in this matter.

- The Housing Committee is currently reviewing three possible scenarios for closing an elementary school in the district, due to declining enrollment. This is currently in the proposal stage only. Several other districts on Long Island are closing schools due to declining enrollment. None of the three possible scenarios impact Accomsett Elementary at this point in terms of students. However, teachers have seniority at a district level. Be aware that the budget process is in progress. The Board of Education will be making decisions trying to make the least impact on programming.
- There are several educational changes coming from the federal, state and governor's levels aimed at making sure our children are where they need to be, and for evaluating teachers. A set of national norms, known as "Common Core Standards" are being developed currently in ELA and Math, with Science and Social Studies to follow. One change may require interim assessments up to 4 times a year, similar to unit tests, in mostly grades 3 through 8. However, both regents and high school graduation requirements may change as well. As more information is made available, Mrs. Minarik will share it. Smithtown school district is already in a good place; we have several assessments already in place that give our teachers the data they need to help our children. Reading Level assessments is just one example of this. If you have any further questions, or would like to speak to Mrs. Minarik about this, please just contact the main office.

### **President's Report**

- Special Thank You's : Janet Burkert – Book Fair; All of the teachers that read at the book fair; Sue Caccavale – Holiday Boutique; Alison Fleischer – Apparel; Dawn Georgiadis – Pictures; Jamie Moses – Reflections; All who participated in the Holiday Cookie Swap and donated to Toys for Tots; Community Kids group for sorting the donated toys; the Marines – picked up our donations, worked with the "Community Kids" group, greeted children as they came in one morning, and led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Ellen has a copy of the presentation made to the Board of Education regarding the proposals for closing 1 of our elementary schools. She shared one of the stats regarding enrollment numbers: In 2001, Smithtown had 8 elementary schools with a total 4,666 students. Currently, we have 9 elementary schools with a total of 4,711 students.
- Please consider going to the Board of Education meetings to stay informed and especially if you would like to speak to the Board about this topic. Meetings are usually every other Tuesday, at New York Avenue. Please check the district calendar for more information. You must show up early and sign in *before* the meeting if you would like to speak. You can also attend the Housing Committee meetings, but there is no speaking allowed from the general audience.
- Thank You to Gappsi for the work done at the entrance to the school. Gappsi has completed other projects, at no cost to the district, at several other schools.

### **Arts in Education**

- December: 1<sup>st</sup> grade had Dan Stenzler Bird Program; all grades saw Season of Miracles
- Upcoming: January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Dinoman; January 19<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> grade Journey into American Indian Territory

### **Health in Wellness**

- We are planning a “Health & Safety Night” for Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **SEPTA**

- The next meeting is Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am. Representatives from many different organizations will be available: Music Academy for Special Learners, Safety-Swim, Power-Pals of Kings Park, Aristocraft Opticians of Hauppauge, and many more.

### **SIT**

- Children are learning “7 Habits of Happy Kids”.

### **Sunshine Fund**

- Please inform Liz Adams of any child that has had an injury or has some other need for sunshine.

### **School Store**

- The school store is open every day. Please check the website for a price list and more information.

### **Bylaws Committee**

- Bylaws expire every three years, ours are due for renewal this year.
- There is a new online procedure for renewal which will make the process much easier.
- The draft will be available for review at the March meeting. One of the main changes being made is to remove the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, leaving only one Vice President.

### **Nominating Committee**

- This year the positions of President, Vice President and Treasurer have to be filled by new people.
- Nancy Linardos and Janet Burkert are not interested in being on the board next year.
- If anyone is interested in being on the board and has any questions, please feel free to contact any current member of the board.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook**

- All is going fine.

### **PARP, Parents as Reading Partners**

- Starting January 31<sup>st</sup>
- Two authors –
  - Alyssa Satin Capucilli, Biscuit series for grades K through 3
  - Brian Heinz, for grades 4 and 5
- Be on the lookout for a PARP booklet coming home that has all of the information for PARP.
- We need more volunteers for PARP decorating. If you are interested, please see Monica Carlsen.

**Dine O'Round**

- Scheduled for Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Class parents have received their basket theme and will be contacting parents for donations.
- If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact Ellen.

**Dinner and a Movie**

- Scheduled for Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Reservation forms are available on the website.
- Please print it out and send in with your payment as soon as possible.

**Box Tops**

- Our last check we received was for \$997.12. The next collection is due February 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Miscellaneous**

- We are still trying to "Go Green" and keep printing at a minimum.
- Please continue to check the website on a regular basis. Tell everyone at the bus stop.
- We may also send home emails more frequently to remind you of upcoming events and deadlines.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05am.