

## **PTA Meeting September 14, 2010**

The general meeting of the Accomsett Elementary PTA was called to order at 7:41 pm on Tuesday, September 14, 2010.

In attendance: Ellen Kyranakis, Nancy Lindardos, Janet Burkert, Patti Arrucci, Regina Ranaldo Allyson Gelfand, and Mrs. Feliciano.

The minutes of the May 4, 2010 General PTA Meeting were accepted. Copies were made available to the general audience.

### **Correspondence**

- Thank you's received from first and second grades for Cultural Arts assemblies.
- Thank you's from fifth grade Spirit Day – cards were sent to the PTA from each fifth grade student.

### **Treasurers Report**

- Balance as of June 2010 was \$34, 366.70; Balance as of July 2010 was \$34, 322.59; Balance as of August 2010 was \$34, 324.02
- Proposed balance for 2010/2011 school year is \$108, 636.70
  - Changes to line items were made available with proposed budget.
- Budget was voted on and passed for the 2010-2011 school year.

### **Teachers' Representative**

- School is off to a good start. Everyone is looking forward to a good school year.
- Thank you to the PTA for the agendas and folders.

### **Principal's Report**

- Thank you to Mrs. Kyranakis and PTA board for keeping events balanced and fiscally responsible.
- Recaps of the spring – Fifth grade trip to the zoo was a great trip; Spirit Day was dedicated to activities that the fifth graders enjoyed; Painting the mural was a great experience for the fifth graders. Welcome to new Kindergarten parents.
- Thank you to Mr. Borden for stepping back into the role of Assistant Principal and already lecturing students on bus etiquette.
- Thank you to the custodians for their hard work over the summer and painting fourth and fifth grade classrooms.
- Welcome again to Kindergarten parents – kids are adjusting well. Mrs. Minarik encouraged new parents to volunteer.

- Mrs. Minarik understands more folks are working and made changes to Meet the Teacher to accommodate working parents.
- Student body is at 731. Some sections were close to breaking.
  - There are 4 kindergarten sections
  - There are 4 first grade sections
  - There are 5 second grade sections
  - There are 6 third grade sections
  - There are 5 fourth grade sections
  - There are 6 fifth grade sections
- We are starting to downsize and have more room in the building.
- Mrs. Minarik will only address the kindergarten parents, All other grades will go directly to child's classroom to hear about curriculum.
- Five more SmartBoards will be installed (99% of teachers will have it).
- State changes – accountability and data, tracking students: this means we are watching the child's progress.
- Mrs. Minarik stated that she is proud of her staff and received an email from Mr. Nocero stating that students' scores were good and the students came over to the middle school with the skills that they need.
- New York State Assessments – levels 3 & 4 are passing, levels 1 & 2 are not passing
- The state raised expectations, 650 and over was passing grade – some of our numbers will be lower.
- Scores cannot be released yet and it is believed they will be released the end of September.
- Students that need support will receive it.
- The state made changes to some testing – Fifth grade social studies will no longer be administered (per Mrs. Feliciano – the fifth grade year is starting so relaxed without the worry of a test).
- Local assessments are given to first and second grades. Some changes have already been made to the first grade assessment.
- The focus is creating good, positive environments – not about tests.
- Fill Your Bucket – concept is that it is important to say positive things. It also teaches children to choose and use words wisely and not to hurt others. Some kids don't know better and the “bully” word is used too often.
- Bus challenges – based on budget \$1 million was saved. As a community we must work together. Some buses are filled to capacity – bus passes are no longer doable. Emergencies only and even then it may not be approved if there is no room on the bus.
  - Everyone is still settling in with bus changes.
  - Sitting in grade order, please help with this routine – encourage your child to sit in grade level seat.

- Not all musical instruments can be taken on bus. Mrs. Minarik will clarify whether or not students can leave instruments in school.
- Not a lot of staffing changes took place, just a couple adjustments and we do have a new social worker.
- STEMS will be available it is a form of enrichment available to grades 3, 4, & 5. STEMS will be a similar curriculum and before school program.
- Accomsett Elementary did fabulous on the math test and Mrs. Minarik is pleased that our students scored the highest in the district.
- The question was asked if assessment scores would be on Parent Portal. Not sure if yes, or no, will check.
- The question was asked if new students are added to classes now will the classes split? The answer is no. K-3 can have a maximum of 25 kids and 4-5 can have a maximum of 27 kids. In the past aides would be given if class size increased, not sure if that will happen now.
- Summer Reading Breakfast is a large number. It is believed the time is 8:15 am, time will be on invitation.
- Glitches in Portal – call Deetze in health office to help with passwords.
- In closing it was a good summer, restful, but too hot. Welcome back – good to see familiar faces and new faces and looking forward to PTA events.

### **President's Report**

- The PTA is going green – trying to stop sending flyers home – everything will be on PTA website.
  - Flower Sale order forms will be online to be downloaded.
  - Any problems contact Janet or Ellen.
- Spoke with Dee Ann Rollins to see if email can be sent to notify parents of upcoming events, information.
- The question was asked why teachers don't have email. Per Mrs. Minarik: all teachers have email, but the district discourages them from using it due to student confidentiality issues.
- Thank you to volunteers, many people have stepped up to volunteer, more are needed.
- Thank you to Michelle Engel for chairing school supply kits. 40% of incoming students ordered them.
- Thank you to Sharon Whelan and the Kindergarten Welcome committee.
- Ellen attended district meeting – they are looking for parents to answer questions for Parent University. Looking into bullying and Fill the Bucket themes.
- Audit Report – Michelle Engel, Allyson Gellfand, and Patti Arrucci met to audit – everything is in compliance – will send to state.
- Class parents have been selected and notified.
  - Some changes to 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade class parents: 1 class parent per class.

- No need to call for emergency closing, snow days now that we have Connect Ed.
- Only one field trip.
- Third grade will still have 2 class parents due to Heritage Day.
- We will now try to keep meetings to an hour. To do so, committee chairs please report and if you need volunteers and people are interested in helping, speak after the meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

**SEPTA** - Alesia Simco- Membership is on sale online. SEPTA pads are on sale 1 pad for \$3 or 2 pads for \$5.

**Arts in Education** – Nancy Linardos, Elise Siegel, Kristine Guitierrez – have not met yet.

**Council Delegate** – Sally Schaeffer – have not met yet.

**Fall Flower Sale** – Michelle Engel – flyers will be coming home soon. Order forms are online. Samples will be at front greeter’s desk. Orders must be in by 9/27, pick up is 10/6 from 3:30 to 6:00 pm.

**Membership** – Patti Arrucci – membership is on sale now. All class parents and chairpeople must be members.

**Plant a Bulb** – Barbara DeSousa – new students and teachers plant a bulb in the fall, see it bloom in spring.

**Reflections** – Jamie Moses – “Together We Can” is the theme. It will only be writing, photography, and drawings. Information will be available for Meet the Teacher night. Download applications. Will send link to Janet. Deadline date to be determined (mid October).

**School Board Representative** – Sally Schaeffer – School Board Meeting was going on same time as PTA meeting. Sally needs help attending these meetings. She is also Legislative Rep for district.

**School Store** – Ellen Kyranakis – it will be up and running in 2 weeks. New volunteers are needed. For those who do not know, the school store is a closet with supplies for students to shop at.

**Summer Reading Breakfast** - Lisa Kielmeyer – 9/27 at 8:15 am. All book reports are due tomorrow, 9/15.

Legislative information was distributed at end of the meeting. PTA is the largest child advocacy group and we have counsels that oversee us.

- NYS Council meeting will be held in Buffalo.
- Our reps want a general consensus of how we want them to vote
- If you fill out a form, please bring it back to next PTA meeting.
- Class parents will receive it in their folders, please do not take one tonight.

Ellen addressed new parents and invited them to introduce themselves after the meeting.

#### **Past Events**

- Kindergarten Welcome
- School Supply Kits

#### **Upcoming Events**

- 9/27 Summer Reading Breakfast
- 9/27 Chairperson Meeting
- 10/5 Plant a Bulb
- 10/5 PTA Meeting
- 10/6 Fall Flower pick up

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Regina Ranaldo, Recording Secretary