

PTO MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 15, 2010
7:00 p.m. / Art Room / Francis Wyman School

Attendees: Becky Icken (Co-President), Sandy Calandrella (Co-President), Susan Astone (First Vice President & Principal), Jess Inglis, (Second Vice President) Cathy Damato (Treasurer) and Jaime Fraser (Secretary)

Parents: Emily & Ben Valentino, Debbie Williams, Kim & Steve Morin, Kristine Brown, Lori Smith, Cheryl & Dan Johnson, Amy Yacus, Cathy Perry, Michelle Algeri, Rose Hatch, Nishath Fathima, Greta Rosen-Dewar, Eric Dewar, Lisa Mackinnon (+ approximately 10 additional parents not reflected on the Sign In Sheet)

Administration/

Teachers: Mrs. Susan Astone, Ms. Kim Lynch, Ms. Sosnowski, Ms. Jefferson, Ms. Susan Cummings and Ms. Susan Schultz

Welcome and Introductions:

Becky Icken introduced the PTO officers to the group.

Principal's Topics:

Parent coffees will be offered one (1) in the morning and one (1) month in the evening to encourage more participation, specifically, "dad" involvement. The first two coffees have been scheduled for 10/12 at 9:00 a.m. and 11/30 at 7:00 p.m.

Extension opportunities offered to children during school hours and opportunities being considered:

- 5th grade math challenge
- Writing club/after school. Very successful last year. Children published a school newspaper
- Math Olympiad program has been approved and positions have been posted for grades 4 & 5
- Mr. "G" is coordinating efforts with the Robotics Club. Will not be scheduled until the spring per request of the Robotics Club (they will be done with their competitions at that time).

Communication in the school and the importance of the website, blogs and email (E-News) to keep FWS staff and parents connected.

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Cafeteria volunteers are needed and the need has been extended to every day. Parents will be required to meet with Mrs. Astone prior to cafeteria duty and will also be required to sign a privacy waiver/statement as required by FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act).

Volunteers are also needed for morning and afternoon bus duty.

Health/wellness food allergy concerns. Ms. Azarian is leading and working on consistent guidelines. Effective this school year, all birthday celebrations will be food-free. Students will continue to be recognized with birthday pencils and/or stickers and songs, if appropriate. Parents should not send in birthday food treats. The teachers will address food concerns and work with the school nurse during curriculum related food experiences i.e., kindergarten Thanksgiving feast. There has been no decision on kindergarten snack at this time.

Open House to be held on Tuesday 9/21 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. A schedule of presentations and class meeting times will be sent out to families shortly.

Barnes & Noble fundraiser is ongoing.

The redistricting of schools next year will affect Francis Wyman as a result of the new Memorial School. Stay up-to-date by attending or watching school committee meetings.

Treasurer's Report:

At the time of the meeting, PTO Family Dues have been collected in the amount of \$3,550.00 and donations in the amount of \$336.00.

Teacher Comments:

Ms. Sosnoswki mentioned that the 3rd grade will start their study of Massachusetts soon, and would appreciate a donation of paint for the large rock in the playground to be painted as a ladybug. The group recommended that this be addressed by the playground sub-committee.

Ms. Lynch and the 5th grade class are working on a "Who's Who" at Francis Wyman publication.

Parent Comments:

There were no parent comments noted at this meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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- Looking for gently used Halloween costumes for the Costume Extravaganza on 10/5
- Spirit Wear will start on 10/6 and sample items and photos were available at the meeting
- Encourage family and friends to participate in Ladies' Night Out on 11/1 and Fall Marketplace on 11/10

Committees:

The group encouraged participation in the following committees and sign-up sheets were available for each at the meeting:

- New Family Welcoming (provide support & guidance to new families)
- Hospitality;
- Beautification (landscaping/clean-up): Two (2) times per year (Spring & Fall)
- Bus Duty
- Student Enrichment (bring events to the school i.e., Ball in the House last year)
- Carnival (March 2011)
- 5th Grade Yearbook (1st meeting to be held mid-October)
- On-Call
- Lunch Duty
- Teacher Luncheon (recess duty/lunch duty assistance needed)
- Fall Marketplace
- 5th Grade D.A.R.E. (need 4th grade parent volunteers)
- Used Bookstore (need volunteers/contact Donna Murphy)

Fundraising:

- Innisbrook (in process)
- Box Tops / Campbell's Soup (UPC labels – ongoing)
- Magazine drive
- Spirit Wear (upcoming 10/6 to 10/27)
- SCRIP (ongoing)

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 p.m.

/jbf