

PTO Meeting, October 13, 2005

The meeting began at 7 pm with introductions, and PTO president Shaun Vecera thanked everyone who participated in and attended Fall Fun Festival, especially PTO coordinators Laura Wolf and Cindy Rundle. Laura has put together a summary/post mortem that shows this year's profits to be more than \$4000, with a list of suggestions for next year. Some additional suggestions were discussed, including smaller pizza slices or a higher price for the large slices, and smaller baskets for the auction so that more people can bid.

On Monday, November 7th, an accomplished Montessori instructor from the Quad Cities, Don Czerwinskyj, will be visiting the school. He will meet with the faculty from 4:15 – 6:15 pm, and will offer a workshop, "Montessori in the Home," for parents from 7:15 – 9:15 pm. Gordon Cook handed out a draft of a flyer to be sent home to parents. The possibility of having a dinner for faculty and interested parents between the two sessions was discussed. It was decided that a simple inexpensive dinner will be brought in, to be paid for in part by the attending parents and subsidized if necessary by the PTO budget. The menu and dollar amount is yet to be determined.

Shaun announced that the next parent-teacher discussion group will take place in November, and it was agreed that this meeting should take place after Don's visit.

The next agenda item was fundraising possibilities. Shaun and Gordon explained the importance of focusing on fundraisers that collect a percentage of sales or services that parents are already buying, such as box-tops. A list of possibilities for fundraising were discussed, as well as some new ideas:

- Target Visa card (the school has already registered for this)
- Stuff, etc. consignment (the school already has an account)
- Hills Bank ATM card
- Barnes & Noble – school collects a percentage of sales on a designated day
- Barnes & Noble – volunteer gift wrapping for donations – staff vs. parents
- Amazon.com affiliate program
- Schoolpop.com
- Restaurants such as Wendy's, Culvers, or Chili's that would donate a percentage of sales for a given evening

Several of these possibilities will be followed up by PTO attendees. Gordon mentioned that the playground resurfacing funds are currently around \$13,000. An announcement needs to be placed in the newsletter to notify the parents of the Target Visa card and Stuff, etc. fundraising opportunities that are already in place.

Margaret Allen requested that room parents get in touch the teachers to discuss plans for the Halloween parade and classroom activities.

No Board report was given since there is no Board representative on the PTO. Gordon explained that since two spouses of Board members are serving on the PTO that having a representative will be unnecessary.

Gordon reported on the school finances/budget. The cash flow position has greatly improved over the last couple of years, since it is now possible on a monthly basis to pay all payroll checks before tuition is due.

The Usborne book fair is coming up. Kathy Dumont will coordinate this to take place during parent teacher conferences.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.