

## **Goodwin PTO Meeting Minutes**

**Feb 11, 2015**

**Goodwin Music Room 6:30–7:30**

**Present:** Kristin Hempel, Alexia Smith, Richard Weyel, Susan Muirhead, Barbara Mellone, Kathleen Peirsman, Amy Krewson, Jenn Scanlon-Passmore, Jearl Clark, Meghan Silliman, Tracy Rittenhouse, Ann Caranci, Chandra Lownes, Karen Anger

**Recorder:** Alexia Smith

1. Call to order: 6:35
2. Officer's Reports
  - a. President's Report
    - i. Magician: fun event that is easy to organize. Agreed to hold this as a bi-annual event? Attendance would drop if held annually. Perhaps alternate with a science show.
    - ii. Tri-bowling with boys: positive response from attendants. 115 bowlers! Many parents and grandparents came with children. Fun community event. Charged \$10/person for first 2 bowlers and \$5/person after that (fee included shoes and snacks). School made \$7! Emphasis on community rather than fundraising. May increase price slightly in the future but do not want to exclude people. Jenn: supports keeping emphasis on community.
    - iii. Board of Education meeting: tomorrow 12 Feb 2015 7:30. Board will present proposed budget. Many people have emailed already to express thoughts on budget. Useful if parents could attend meeting.
  - b. Vice-president report: nothing to report
  - c. Treasurer's Report:
    - i. Budget included below.
    - ii. Magic show: committee chair donated snacks. Without snacks event was not a huge money maker (more money was made last year).
    - iii. Comparing income to expenses: down \$3500. Whalebash should help increase income. Other events will bring in additional income too (Square One Art, book sale).
    - iv. For next year need to reflect on priorities: continue to emphasize community events over fund-raising (many small fund-raisers have been cut out)? Other fundraising event could include monthly yoga events or a salsa fit class.
    - v. Meghan motioned to accept budget. Richard seconded.
  - d. Secretary's Report:
    - i. Minutes from last meeting submitted to Goodwin PTO website.
    - ii. Received email from PTO organization about internet safety discussion. Include this for next year?
    - iii. Agenda for upcoming meetings will be posted to Goodwin PTO website. Once minutes are posted to the Goodwin PTO website an

announcement will be sent to parents either via the Goodwin PTO Qnotify or the digital backpack.

- iv. Richard motioned to accept 14 Jan 2015 minutes. Susan seconded.
- e. Principal's Report:
  - i. Susan would like to express tremendous gratitude to parents and members of the Goodwin community for all of the support she received following her father's passing. An email will be sent through the Goodwin PTO email.
  - ii. Goodwin has been nominated by the State Department of Education for the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Award. Not many schools have been nominated. Goodwin is an exemplary school. Now putting together a committee and will request parental involvement alongside faculty and staff members. National Blue Ribbon website is currently being revised: not clear when due date for materials is. Would like input from all stakeholders, possibly including 4<sup>th</sup> graders. If Goodwin wins, a select group of stakeholders will meet with the President in DC. Involves a lot of work to pull data together. Need information about all factors that enrich our school (PTO, mileage club). Once information is available could post online to advertise the wonderful things that happen at Goodwin.
  - iii. Ambassador's Club: Shamim Patwa will work with 4<sup>th</sup> graders on multiple projects including kindness chains and food drives. Shamim will run food drive since PTO does not have one planned. Board of Education meeting: Useful to provide information to parents regarding Board of Education budget. The more people who know the better. Board of Education appreciates seeing parents attend the meeting and in the past has listened to the parents voice. Oftentimes budgetary increases result in minimal tax increases per person throughout the town. There is currently nothing to cut except for programming (e.g., art, exploratory programs at Middle School, sports, Suzuki program). Not clear which programs will be cut if budget is not approved. Jenn: involved on council side at MAC. MAC losing funding. All 3 child care centers may lose funding. Now attempting to meet with council members to discuss these issues. Perhaps PTO could put something together to represent school community. The Council has the power to reverse the Board of Education decision.

### 3. PTO Business

- a. Teacher grants: have received two proposals. Cannot fund both. Applications include roughly \$600 for first grade mini-ipads and roughly \$700 for 2 android mini-pads with apps to provide speech therapy and intervention. It may be possible to secure grant funding to pay for the equipment that does not receive PTO funding. Meghan: grants available through UConn foundation for \$1000 to \$2000.

- b. Basketball: March 20, 6:30 at EO Smith in gym. Reaching out to restaurants to get discounts to help support the event. Will sell healthy refreshments. Goodwin color: blue. Team roster capped at 12 parents/faculty/staff. Will get sign-up sheet out next week. Include school spirit activity for students during March 16 week. (Regular school spirit week currently coincides with Turn-off TV week).
- c. Pizza: omitting pizza for children at PTO meetings was considered as a possible way to minimize spending. Many parents find the availability of pizza useful but would likely come to meetings if pizza was not available. Since the annual cost is fairly low (\$250-\$300), pizza will continue to be served at upcoming meetings.
- d. Auction: Chandra reports donations are being dropped off already. Progressing nicely. Committee will meet within the month. Baskets, gift certificates, Disney, have already donated. Auction will take place at the Big Whale Bash (16 May 2015). Chandra will request donations from parents. Susan Muirhead will donate baby-sitting services. Each grade level puts together a basket for a raffle to supplement income. Would be useful to communicate what a silent auction is, explaining how it works since many parents may not know.
- e. Next year's board: seeking nominations soon. Several seats will be empty. Please spread the word and engage people interested in serving.
- f. Square One Art and Arts' Day/Artist-in-Residence: No Arts' Day has been scheduled for this year. In previous years Arts' Day has alternated with an Artist-in-Residence. Karen Anger would like to continue to alternate the events in the future and would like to schedule an Arts' Day for spring 2016. Arts' Day typically consists of 2 one-hour morning workshops for 1-4 grades with a professional artist's performance in the afternoon. Last year Kathleen Peirsman headed the Square One Art fund-raiser committee (implemented in the school by Karen Anger) with the goal of raising funds for an arts event. Kathleen expressed frustration that funds raised through Square One were not used to support an Arts' Day this year. The 2014-2015 budget included \$500 for Arts' events, but roughly \$1200-\$1500 is needed to run an Arts' Day or to fund an Artist-in-Residence. The discrepancy in the budget resulted from a misunderstanding regarding the level of funding needed to run the event this year. In the past Karen Anger has been able to contribute funds every other year, but is no longer able to (owing to a lack of increases to her budget combined with increasing costs of art supplies). Reliance on the PTO to sponsor this event is now greater. The importance of Arts' Day was unanimously agreed upon and there is strong desire to fully support an Arts' Day in spring 2016 (today's discussion serves as a request for approximately \$1200-\$1500 to be budgeted each year for either Arts' Day or Artist-in-Residence and final budget for these events will be revisited when proposed budget

is developed for next year). Tracey: expressed concern about matching fund-raisers with specific events (some years a fundraiser may not yield enough funds to allow an event to take place or may yield much more than is needed). Susan: agreed that aligning specific fund-raisers with named events is problematic. Square One literature states that funds generated will be used for arts events. This should be edited in the future to avoid further confusion. Karen Anger: would ideally like to carry out the Square One Art fund raiser every other year. The art project can take up to 3 or 4 weeks to complete and, when combined with snow days, makes it difficult to cover curriculum. Planning of future Square One events should be done in close consultation with Karen Anger.

It may be possible to obtain external funding for an Arts' Day. Chris Rogers (School of Education at UConn) offers grants to fund Arts' Day events. Karen will find information to send to Susan so that this can be pursued for next year.

4. Adjourned: 8:00

Treasurer's Report

**Goodwin PTO Treasurer's Report**  
**Profit & Loss Statement**

Jan 14, 2015 – Feb 11, 2015

Starting Amount \$18,807.71

Income

School Photo	\$1055.44
Magic Show (\$362 tickets & \$143 snacks)	\$505.00

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Total Income \$1560.44

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Expenses

PTO Pizza	\$17.00
PTO Sitters	\$40.00
Enrichment 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> grades	\$824.00
Staff Holiday Gifts	\$300.00

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Total Expenses \$1181.00

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Profit / Loss profit \$379.44

Box Top Balance \$2,786.34

Balance \$19187.15