

Minutes of Southeast PTO
January 12, 2004

Call to Order: 7:10pm

In Attendance: Jean Phillips, Stacey Fulton, Dawn Rawlinson, Norma Fisher Doiron, Margie Ouimette, Monique Brown, Kim O'Keefe, Sue Charron, Jason Charron, Irene Sheehan, Linda Sydie, Ron Baker, Natalie Miniutti, Jen Oliver, Edmond Chibeau,

Secretary's Report: Minutes from November 3, 2003 were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: November and December Treasurer's Report were distributed. Since Dawn Rawlinson was not present at the October meeting, all three treasurer's reports were discussed. There was a lot of discussion about the carnival and script programs. The net income from the Carnival was \$5,654.41 and this was a bit lower than anticipated. There were several ideas to increase the income from the silent auction and Jean Phillips suggested it might be a good idea to meet with Wendy at some point to discuss these ideas. The income from the classroom baskets should be deposited into the Playscape fund, and Jean Phillips will give Dawn Rawlinson that dollar amount. The script program has raised approximately \$1800 since October 2002. After much discussion, all three treasurer's reports were accepted.

Principal's Report: Norma Fisher-Doiron

The Calendar of Events for Jan/Feb were passed around and discussed. February 11th is the Invention Convention/Science Fair and the Trestle Tree begins on February 23rd.

Fred Baruzzi did an outstanding presentation explaining the "No Child Left Behind" Act at the PAC meeting. It is unfortunate that more parents did not attend.

Safe Kids ID and cups for kids will be discussed under New Business.

Teacher's Report: Monique Brown

Monique Brown discussed the use of email as a communication tool between parents and teachers. Many teachers were concerned that they do not check their email accounts frequently enough to use that as the primary method of communication. There is currently no policy mandating the use of email as a method of communicating to teachers so at this point Mrs. Fisher Doiron feels more comfortable relying on phone mail and written notes.

The program "Community Conversation on Early Care and Education" was extremely successful. There were 100 participants and there will be a follow-up workshop scheduled.

There has at this point been no shift of Webmaster responsibilities. Jean Phillips spoke in depth with Steve Sokoloski and we will continue to have minutes, agendas and calendars posted on the web site as in the past. If there is a parent with who would like to volunteer web space and to be the webmaster, we could expand our postings.

Old Business:

The bookfair was extremely successful. Over \$3,000 worth of books were sold and in turn, \$639.00 worth of books were purchased for our school library. Thank you to Stacey Fulton for coordinating this book sale.

New Business:

Natalie Miniutti has sent out a survey to see if Southeast would be interested in purchasing museum passes that could be signed out by Mansfield residents. The public library would keep the passes and

families could use them throughout the year. Goodwin and Vinton have each purchased passes. The passes are good for one year.

Motion #1: To continue to research the purchase of museum passes that would not exceed the amount of \$200/year. Unanimously passed.

There will be a game night at Southeast School on Friday, January 30th in the gym. We will sell Hosmer Mt. Soda, sell cookies and provide games for families to play. The PTO and teachers will provide the board games. There will also be a raffle for UCONN basketball tickets. Monique Brown will check with Becky Robichaud to see if she has purchased new board games with the money the PTO allocated her. (This date has since changed to 2/6/04)

Natalie Minuitti is coordinating a program to relieve teachers of their lunch/bus duties per their request. The teacher will fill out a request and Natalie will attempt to locate a parent to "cover" that duty on a specific day. Anyone interested in helping to provide coverage for a teacher should contact Natalie Minuitti.

A big thank you to Margaret, Tess and Annie Morrison from the PTO!! Margaret recently hosted a birthday party for her twin daughters and requested donations to the plays cape in lieu of gifts. A very generous donation was made to our plays cape fund and we would like to thank Margaret, Tess, Annie and all their friends for their donation.

"Donuts for Dads" was a HUGE success. Thank you to Sue Charron for coordinating this. Watch for "Muffins for Moms" in May. Sue would like to coordinate a *Family Reading Night* for Southeast families. Please contact Sue if you are interested in helping her with this.

There has been some discussion about bringing back "Room Parents". Roomparents would serve as contact people for their homerooms and responsibilities would vary depending upon the needs of the classroom teacher. Monique Brown will discuss this with the teachers.

The tag sale will be the first weekend in June (the same weekend as the Mansfield Library Book sale). Kim O'Keefe is coordinating this event and is looking for volunteers. She will begin advertising the tag sale in March. Sue Charron will coordinate the concession stand

Kim O'Keefe and Linda Sydie will be coordinating Grandparents Day.

Norma Fisher-Doiron received information about the *McGruff Safe Kids ID Program*. Irene Sheehan will find out more information and report to us at the next meeting.

The PTO has been requested to purchase cups for students to drink water from during the "flu" season. It was decided that this would be very costly and could lead to many spills in the classrooms.

Jean Phillips is looking for parents who are interested in going to other schools to see performing artists who we might be interested hiring at Southeast. Let Jean know if you are interested.

Dawn Rawlinson will purchase white copy paper for the PTO to use.

Ron Baker has contacted Nassiff's to make more library book bags, but still needs the new logo. He can get the logo from Karen Anger. The PTO was not aware that only some kindergartners have received the book bags, so Jean Phillips will find out how many more are needed for this year and see if we can order a small amount to hold us over until next year.

Ron Baker mentioned there have been comments that there is not enough time for students to eat lunch during the 30 minute lunch period. There was much discussion about eating patterns/styles of

different children, and Norma Fisher Doiron reminded us that if there are any special needs a student has during the lunch period (such as a student needing extra time, low blood sugar, etc.) these should be brought to the attention of the school nurse.

Ron Baker also mentioned that there has been a request for an in-house staff photo directory. This could be useful for subs and visitors to the school. Ron knows a parent who would be willing to put this directory together.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 pm

Submitted by: Margie Ouimette, Secretary

Our Next Meeting will be Monday, February 2, 2004.