

**Minutes of the Southeast PTO
September 8, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Norma Fisher-Doiron, Monique Brown, Kim O'Keefe, Dave Delaney, Lesley Sweeney, Julie Brown, Karen Mitlitsky, Deb Grove, Margaret Morrison, Karen Sommer, Shannon Bacon, Bethsy Santiago, Michelle Landon, Xiaozhong Le, Jennifer Novick, mark Novick, Patty Braithwaite, Tina Huey, Lynn Denning, Irene Sheehan, Gordon Clark,

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Kim O'Keefe

Call to order

Introductions

Fall Carnival: Karen Mitlitsky

September 27th 10 – 3PM

It's the biggest fundraiser of the year.

Looking for volunteers – passing around the sign up sheet

Looking also for canopies to borrow.

Brings in enrichment programs for our school.

Older children can run games too.

Waiting for the permit to come through.

Fred Baruzzi – Superintendent of schools

- Congratulated us on a tremendous turnout for our PTO meeting and noted that the Board of Ed. is ready to support the PTO the best they can.

He wanted to highlight the following:

- Access to the board – Fred mentioned that the Board of Ed. wants to be open an accessible. They meet the 2 & 4th Thursday of the month. You can call central office to be put on the upcoming agenda.
- Fred encouraged parents to invite board members to see different events.
- He noted that we now have a security system with badges for all staff. This was done so everyone will feel safe, not because of any particular issue. He mentioned we've had the luxury for many years to have all of our doors unlocked. Now doors will be open during the opening of school and at end of day. They will be locked during instructional hours. They are currently debugging the system right now and there will be camera access to doors later. For now we are on a "buzz in basis". He felt it was important to communicate how the children are being protected.
- He mentioned that the budget passed last year by a close vote. The Town council looked at taxes afterwards and ended up writing a letter to the Board of Ed asking them to reduce budget by \$155,000.00. This money will be held by the town for now and might be returned later. The cuts came from our salary account; mostly from not hiring an assistant superintendent to replace Fred's old position. No

- teachers or programs were cut. Fred noted that any information that is circulated about the budget should always be brought to Norma's attention for clarification.
- Building Project: Sept 17th @ 7PM there will be a presentation at MMS that should last 1 ½ hours. It will be a report on what was found after studying the facility issues at hand in the schools. Additions were looked at, as well as upgrades, etc. The total was 100 billion dollars which was too high and the state won't reimburse enough with our current enrollment. Other options are being looked at now; one is do nothing and repair as things happens. Another is to close one school and add on to just two. Yet another is to build one town wide K – 4 school which would hold about 700 students. The last appears to be the most efficient. It will not be a night for a decision but sharing of information.
 - Facilities Usage – The Board of Ed is trying to funnel activities that occur after 6PM to MMS to save energy, staff, etc. from using all 4 schools for these functions. PTO activities will still be allowed in each individual school.
 - Fundraising: The town has a new Wellness Policy. Beth Gankofsky is working to raise awareness about it and will help give alternatives to unhealthy practices including fundraisers that involve sweets and the tradition of bringing in birthday sweets.
 - Communication: If issues come out, please call Norma and she will get an answer as quickly as possible.

Silent Auction: Kimberly Clark

Kimberly went over how the Silent auction at the Fall Carnival works. Families, town members and staff donate items and services and attendees have an opportunity to bid on the items.

About \$8,000.00 was earned through the auction one year but they are scaling down this year and do not have as many donations this year as in years past.

Volunteers are needed.

There are many on the previous auction list that still need to be contacted or followed up with.

Sometimes items need to be picked up.

Solicitations letters can be sent out and they are all drawn up.

This year we are especially short on snowplowing or lawn work donations.

They need help the day of the carnival for the last hour ½ to distribute goods.

Classroom Theme Baskets are being signed up for by the teachers.

Fireworks In the Park: Karen Sommer & Andrea Lennon

Fireworks in the Park will occur Saturday Sept 16th. It starts at 6 and ends at 9.

The PTO will have a booth with glow sticks and baked goods. They ask that if you are donating food that it is individually wrapped. They could use some more help selling. It will be the last year for selling glow sticks as they don't raise enough money to be worth it. They would like to use the school tent on Friday.

Andrea Lennon mentioned that they are also looking to clean up the park the next day (Sunday) as a community service. Cleanup will start at 8AM. They are providing gloves and garbage bags.

OTHER:

Linda Sydie is coordinating school banking again this year with Liberty bank. She can only come on Fridays. She needs someone for 1 hour at the beginning of school to help her out.

Thank you to the PTO for the Kindergarten Quiet Time bags. Mrs. Brown displayed them and mentioned that she was able to get two years worth of bags with the money.

Thank you to Julie Brown and Andrea Lennon for the Open House PTO table! Many new contacts were made that evening.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Norma Fisher-Doiron

Parent's Hour: Meet & Greet social hour

Next parents hour October 6 : Fred Baruzzi will do a CMT (testing) overview

Calendar of Events (on web site)

The first day of school was gorgeous and Open House was well attended.

New staff:

Tom Rameaka joins us from MMS as our Resource teacher for grades 3 & 4

Laura Stewart rejoins us as a K – 2 Resource Teacher

Class size:

K: 21/21

1: 14/15/15

2: 17/17/18

3: 15/18/18

4: 19/19

TEACHER'S REPORT: Monique Brown

Teachers are looking into finding a contact parent for each of their classrooms to help facilitate communications between the PTO and families.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Monique Brown

June's minutes were reviewed.

Motion for acceptance by: Kim O'Keefe

2nd by : Dave Delaney

All in Favor

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lesley Sweeney

Highlights:

Most pertains to last year

Raised \$18,653.00 last year – Balance at the end of the year was \$17,061.97

Leslie noted that Patti Jajliardo gave an additional \$50 from her Avon sales back to the school.

She questioned if we will have Sue Harrington back this year to do science enrichment.

A “Working Budget” was motioned by Kim O’Keefe

2nd: Andrea Lennon

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report: Kimberly Clark

Seconded by: Mark Novick

OTHER:

It was requested that those that set up tables to sell an item, donate a percentage of their sales to the auction and donate an item to the auction.

Does the PTO want to donate an item to be raffled? We did so last year (One was an iPod) Kim O’Keefe decided that \$150 of the carnival budget line should go towards an item for the raffle.

Andrea Lennon mentioned that the Family Skate is scheduled for Sunday, Feb 22nd from 3:30 to 4:30. It is the end of a week of vacation.

Andrea asked if we will have a school dance again this year. Wendy Guyette and Andrea Lennon are willing to coordinate but hope to raise the budget line. Kim O’Keefe said to table this until after the fall carnival figures come in. Andrea mentioned that we should probably have it the Friday of TV turn off week.

Irene Sheehan has offered to run school pictures this year.

Kimberly Clark will be doing Scrip program this year.

Kimberly Clark mentioned that no one has been submitting the Box Tops the school has been collecting. The deadline is in October. If tops are returned they will be submitted.

Motion to adjourn: Kimberly Clark

Motion seconded by: Karen Sommer

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:10 PM
RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY: MONIQUE M. BROWN
NEXT MEETING: October 6, 2008**