

Southeast PTO Meeting Minutes- November 2, 2015

Attendance- Erin Clark, Jennifer Mott, Lindy DeGennaro, Amy Dunstan, Mary deVecchis, Jon Sgro, Noreen Halbrooks, Lena Rossi, Jess Higham, Erin Christopher, Jana MacDonald, Esther Soffer-Roberts, Lauren Rodriguez, Laura Kravet, Zhangqing Sun, Susan Cote

Meeting called to order at 6:33pm by Erin Clark

Erin Clark shared a thank you note the PTO received for the lunch we provided the workers who helped construct the new playground at the Mansfield Community Center over Columbus Day weekend.

1. Upcoming Events in November-

- **UConn Book Fair-** Preview is Thursday 11/19 and books will be on sale Friday 11/20-Tuesday 11/24- Maryann Olson is running this event. Mary deVecchis suggested if the event can be staffed during the day then teachers can send students down during the day for sales.
- **Parent Teacher Conferences-** Scheduled for Monday Nov 23rd - until approx.8pm and Tuesday Nov 24th - until approx. 5pm.
- **Thanksgiving Bake Sale-** Jana MacDonald is coordinating this and she will send out a flyer. Volunteers are needed to sell baked goods and remaining auction items (ski passes, birthday basket, winter basket, St. Patrick's Day basket, tickets to the Lutz museum). Parent pickup time, Monday 6-8pm and Tuesday 3-5pm are the times needed for bake sale coverage. The same process used at the carnival for the silent auction will be used for the remaining auction items. There will be a choice to either pick a bid number to enter a bid price or pay full value for the item to own it.
- **Thanksgiving Feast-** Friday Nov 20th. Volunteers are needed to help for Set up 9:00-10:30am, Serving 11:30am-1:00pm and Clean up 1:00pm-2:00pm
- **Adopt a Family-** Family gift requests should be available the week of Thanksgiving/parent conferences. Staff and parent volunteers are coordinating time to get the bulletin board ready. We will use the PTO board to display the Adopt a Family event. This is near the parent pick up area so it will be easy to see. Gifts need to be in by December 9th.
- **Citrus Sale-**Order forms due Nov 9th - this may be the last year of the sale if sales are low again

2. Winter Events-

- Family Game Night- tentatively scheduled for Friday March 4th
- Cocoa and Cultural Crafts- tentatively scheduled for Friday January 29th

** Mats and Ropes start Jan 4th and Trestle Tree is Feb 1-Feb26

3. Update about Fundraising Meeting-

PTO officers met with the Aspire representative. With the help of the Aspire program the goal is to find out what various talents, skills, interests parents have. Aspire is administered in a group setting as computerized sessions that take about 30 minutes. Results are tallied and shared with the group and archived. The PTO is looking to do more events and reduce the amount of product fundraisers. Other event fundraiser ideas suggested are a Winter Carnival, Saturday school, and a photographer to take

family pictures to then buy/sell for holiday cards. Another parent suggested signing up for/paying for cooking classes offered by Southeast parents as another possible fundraiser.

4. Principal's Report- A group of members from a school in Beijing may be visiting Southeast this school year. Aspire sessions will be held Friday Nov 20th after school for 3rd and 4th grade parents to do Aspire(30 mins) during Running Club time and scheduling sessions for Kindergarten parents is in the process. Time for parents to do the Aspire after the Thanksgiving feast (2pm) is another possibility.

Class meeting projects are underway. Each class does this for 30 minutes each day. Principal Rodriguez asked if parents have been hearing about these class meetings and some parents have been. There are also Gratitude Fridays when students say what they are grateful for. Also, students are working on sharing and greeting activities and there is an activity portion with team building to foster relationships with peers and teacher. Each classroom teacher is partnered with another staff member for some activities.

Professional Development is getting redefined in the district. Some staff members did technology training on the last Professional Day and the three elementary schools are working to align SRBI program for consistency.

Parent teacher conferences are in a few weeks and sign-ups will be coming home soon. If parents would like more time with teachers, teachers are available for future discussions at alternate times. Trying to adhere to the schedule of appointments is important.

5. Relay for Life Report- Lindy DeGennaro reported our Southeast Demi Fisher team raised \$1400 and the second team raised \$2100. Overall the Relay raised about \$100,000. A big thank you to everyone that supported the event in various ways.

6. Other- Student directory- some handwriting was difficult to read so mistakes were made. Looking to have the directory online and emailed next year is going to be considered.

Southeast is hosting the Board of Education meeting scheduled for Thursday December 10th. Kindergarten will be highlighted at the meeting.

Parents in attendance were asked to volunteer to help write thank you notes to businesses that contributed to the Silent Auction this year.

Treasurer's update- Noreen Halbrooks reported the Jeannine fundraiser made \$821.45 this year which was very similar to last year. The Butterbraids sale made \$390.00 this year which was about \$160 more than last year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm by Erin Clark

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Mott, Co-Secretary