

**In attendance:**

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The following signed in Amana Loftus, Tracy Carter, Erika Drezner, Dana Hanson, Susan Cassidy, English Levin, Ann Langenfeld, Joanne Campbell, Christine Carey, Jen Harris, Nina Dickerman, Rachael Mc Carthy, Christine Gallwan, Allison Sharma, Marie Renell, Margaret Crook, Jaye Scnieder, Diana Fisher Gomberg, Vickie Gifford, Donna Davis, Laurie Friedell, Hope Kellman, Michelle Strout, plus others who did not sign in....

**Welcome** – Dana Hanson and Susan Cassidy Co-Presidents

**Approval of minutes:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 17,2008 it was seconded and approved. Note the minutes are on line at <http://www.burrpto.org/>

**Quick Check Ins**

Auction Committee- Ellen Regan

- Seeking donations now please get your orange sheet into the auction committee or contact them at [burrauction@yahoo.com](mailto:burrauction@yahoo.com).
- If you want to buy an AD for the booklet contact the committee can be a personal ad to your child or a business ad. Ads start at \$25.
- The class basket donations are due Friday 10/31/08 –cash or check is fine!
- You can donate cash vs. a basket or tickets or gift go to the Burr website and click on PAYPAL and note in the comments section it is to be used for the auction vs. gift for Burr annual contribution.
- PICTURES WANTED – the committee is putting together a slide show for that evening please send photos to the team.

Social Action Committee- Diana Fisher Gomberg (for Jeff Zabell)

- Halloween Candy donation boxes will be in the lobby on Monday 11/3/08 please donate extra candy to go to the Pine Street Inn
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is doing a fundraiser for the Second Step Shelter
- Newton Serves in the Spring
- Other ideas to get folks involved in the community contact [jeff.zabel@tufts.edu](mailto:jeff.zabel@tufts.edu)

Question 1 – What is it? Susan Cassidy

- Susan shared the basics of question 1 and encouraged folks to read it and research it and VOTE!!!!

Respect for Human Differences- Dana Hanson

- First meeting is on 11/17/08 at 4:00 in the library all are welcome!
- New Reading Group interest poll taken – David Giata and Nina Dickerman have selected The Trouble with Boys as the first book.

Intro By Ms Bencal-

- Introduced Jessica Minahan to the audience. She spoke briefly about the Respect for Human Differences Committee and the schools anti bullying goals for Burr and Newton Schools in general.  
Do you know we are a pilot program for Anti Bullying in Newton??
- Kim Swan will be starting in the next few weeks as the Inclusion Facilitator at Burr as Jessica has accepted another position in the Newton School System. Luckily Jessica will still be at Burr on Mondays as a consultant.
- The next Principal coffee on 11/24/08 8:30-9:30 will be used as a time for Jessica to continue her conversation on Anti-Bullying and the specifics we are doing at Burr to deal with this issue.

**Anti Bullying** - presented by Jessica Minahan, Burr School Inclusion Facilitator

- Have you ever worried that your child might bully or be bullied?
  - Ms Minahan has completed an anonymous survey and is compiling results at this time. This will be done two times a year.
- What can you do to help your child?
  - This will be covered more in part two
- What is the latest research on the effective prevention of bullying in schools?
  - **HIGHLIGHTS**
    - Definitions of joking, teasing and bullying.
    - Categories of bullying- Educational, Social, cyber Bullying
    - Incident rates in US and MA
    - Health and Well-being Consequences of Bullying
    - Where does Bullying Occur?
    - Characteristics & Types of Bullies
    - Characteristics of Victims
    - Bystanders
    - Allies
    - Why an Intervention Program needs who community awareness and involvement
  - **SCHOOL RULES AGAINST BULLYING**
    - We will not bully others
    - We will try to help students who are bullied
    - We will include students who are easily left out.
    - When we know somebody is being bullied we will tell an adult at school and at home.

- What happens at Burr when a bullying behavior is identified?
  - Interventions for Bullies
  - Interventions for Victims
  - Roles of the Counselor, Special Education Teacher, Speech and Language Pathologist, Administrators and Parents
  - Consequences (See Grade 1-5 Rubric )
    - Teasing or exclusion- written warning & student calls parents
    - Hitting – One silent lunch student calls parents
    - Severe hitting of threats- 3 silent lunches and student calls parents
    - After three incidents an individual plan is developed at a meeting with the parents.
  
- Q & A -Jessica graciously stayed late to entertain additional questions.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kelly E Brown*

Kelly Brown

Secretary, Burr School PTO

**Upcoming events**

Election Day Bake Sale – Tues 11/4/08

Picture Make Up Day 11/14

Book Fair 11/19-11/21

Principal Coffee 11/24 – We hope that Jessica will be able to present Part Two of this important topic – What are we doing at Burr when bullying is reported?