

PTO Meeting minutes 1-13-04

PTO Business

Jackie Gelb opened the meeting and conducted the election of the new slate of PTO officers. **Lisa Mirable** was nominated to fill the office of **PTO Co-President** for a 1 _ year term, and **Deanna Reid** was nominated to fill the office of **PTO Co-President** for a 2 _ year term, in both cases the motion was seconded and a unanimous vote was recorded. **Susan Foster** was nominated to the office of **Education Support Coordinator**, **Holli Roth** was nominated to the office of **Fundraising Coordinator**, **Susan Cassidy** was nominated to the office of **Communication Coordinator**, and finally **Lucy Norvell** was nominated to the office of **Community Building Coordinator**. For each coordinator position all nominations were seconded and a unanimous vote was recorded. Each coordinator will fill a 1 _ year term.

Kelly McDade presented the minutes of 11-18-03; they were read and unanimously approved.

Principal's Update At the upcoming February PTO meeting **Cindy Bencal** will present and discuss the MCAS results of '03, please note this meeting has evolved over the years and would be of interest to all parents not just the parents of students who will be taking the MCAS. Ms. Bencal also updated the PTO on numerous issues such as the City's fire safety code that was implemented at the beginning of this year. Each time the fire department has been to inspect Burr we have received a satisfactory report. However, the code is being reviewed and they are looking at ways to display more of the students' artwork such as polycarbonic glass fronted display cabinets. Ms. Bencal also discussed space issues in the school currently there is a room (the old music room) which is shared by eight professionals. In reviewing the space in the building there may be an opportunity to take back the room that currently houses the voting machines (this room is located off the Cafetorium just to the left of the stairs). As soon as the city takes these machines back the school has plans to convert this room into a conference room. Ms. Bencal also discussed the integration of the Technology that the PTO has provided for the school. **Ms. Lawton** provided examples of how the LCD projector, in particular has provided an invaluable resource to both the teachers and students. The school has implemented grade level benchmarks for technology. Ms. Bencal also described how the Early Literacy Initiative (replacing P.I.R.P.) has been very successful. There will be a "Math Morning" in March (not February as previously publicized) for the lower grades as well as a possible morning meeting with Ms. Bencal to discuss Kindergarten curriculum with parents more information to follow on both topics.

More PTO Business There are still a number of vacancies on various committees. **Ann Costello** provided the group with a description of the **Understanding our Differences Committee**. It is a Disabilities awareness curriculum presented to the fourth grade. The time commitment is minimal (it is a daytime commitment) and materials are provided, but leadership is needed. May Fair "apprentices" are needed. The committee chairs for the May Fair are all outgoing Fifth Grade Parents. There is a need for someone to take on the Blue Zone. If interested in any of these positions please contact Lisa or Deanna. **Mary Lewis** has agreed to take on the project of displaying a Staff Bulletin Board in the school with pictures of teachers and all the staff. **Terri Romanelli** presented the Treasurer's report. The PTO has raised the following: \$875 from School Pictures, \$26 from Boxtops for Education, \$1,096 from the Book Fair, \$1,300 from the grocery cards, \$1,065 from the Library Gift sale and the \$1,395 from Literature fund (which is divided equally among all teachers).

Currently, we are on target with a total of \$13,600 funds raised to date. **Bruce Miller** described the "Take me out to the Ball Game" fundraiser in April and **Eileen Ingham** discussed the Auction in March. **Jeanne Scott** has agreed to draft the role of the Room Parent and present it at the next PTO meeting. This new job description will not take effect until next year. **Jean Giglio** presented the group with an opportunity to rent the Daly Newton/Brighton Ice skating rink Sunday March 7, 2004 from 12:00 -12:50 pm. We would have the rink to ourselves for that period of time. The cost is \$180. There was a motion for the PTO to pay the \$180 fee to secure the rink to be reimbursed when the money is collected. The motion was seconded and then approved by a vote. Contact Jean Giglio for further details.

Submitted by Kelly McDade