

PTO Meeting minutes 3-31-04

PTO Business

Kelly McDade presented the minutes of 2-4-04; they were read and approved by a vote.

Lisa Mirabile opened the meeting with a proposal to distribute the Burr Bulletin electronically. This would be done on a trial basis for the rest of this school year. The goal is to save costs on paper. You will continue to receive a paper copy of the Burr Bulletin unless you actively say that you no longer wish to receive it and "opt in" to the electronic distribution. The Bulletin will be e-mailed to you as an attachment, most likely a PDF file, which you will be able to print. You may still view the Bulletin on the PTO website. It is password protected; to receive the password, e-mail your request to admins@burrpto.org. There was a motion to accept the proposal on a trial basis. The motion was seconded and approved by a vote.

The PTO is still looking for a candidate for a two-year term for PTO Secretary. The term begins in September 2004. If interested please contact the PTO Board.

Laya Steinberg gave an update to the group on the garden shed. The plastic shed was vandalized on New Year's Eve and there is a need to replace the shed with a sturdier wooden version. Full retail for a Home Depot shed that is delivered and built on the property is approximately \$13-1400. There are other options to explore such as a discount from Home Depot, or purchasing a display model for almost 50% off the retail cost of a brand new shed. Currently, the garden classroom line item does not have enough money in the budget to cover the cost of the new shed. There was proposal to set aside \$1,300 from the playground line item; a motion was made to accept this proposal. It was seconded and approved by a vote. **Gina Scaramella** informed the group that her neighbor was moving and selling several wooden sheds they currently own, she will investigate as another less expensive option.

Lisa Mirabile has investigated the costs of purchasing polycarbonic plastic sheets to cover the bulletin boards in and outside of the classrooms. This is in response to the newly enforced fire regulations (only 10-20% of the wall space can be covered with paper). Suggestions were made to paint some of the walls with a mural. More information and discussion regarding this subject will happen at a later date.

Eileen Ingham reported that this year's auction was the most successful event to date.

Terri Romanelli stated that after expenses the auction netted a total of \$22,500!

Cindy Bencal introduced the guest speaker for the evening **Nancy Beardall** is a teacher at **Day Middle School**. Her topic was "Bullying". Highlights included: One of the most important things you can do as a parent is continue to have an open dialogue with your child. Help them to feel safe and connected. Be a good role model for your child. Help them to understand differences. Oftentimes when a child is perceived as different he/she can be a target for bullying. Parent support groups or networks are very helpful. Several handouts were shared with the group. Copies of the handouts can be obtained by contacting either Kelly McDade or Lisa Mirabile.

More PTO Business:

The Respect for Human Differences Committee has withdrawn their request for funding of the photo exhibit. The other schools with whom we were going to split the costs have asked to reschedule this exhibit for the fall.

Currently, we do not have a PTO meeting scheduled for June. The Respect for Human Differences Committee has proposed a meeting. They will discuss the mission of the committee and encourage a community dialogue and address issues and concerns of parents. All are welcome and encouraged to attend, a date for this meeting will be announced.

The next PTO meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2004. Several teachers that have received SILC grants this year will hold a technology presentation.