

**Approval of Minutes**

- The June minutes were read, there was a motion to accept, it was seconded and they were approved.

**Welcome by Cindy Bencal, Burr School principal**

- Cindy gave an overview of who we are this year. Some of the things she mentioned were:
  - 313 K – 5 students, 1 student fewer than last year, projections for next year are for even more
  - 15 regular classrooms, K, 3, and 5 have 2 classes, with the others having 3 classrooms
  - Challenging year, several teachers switched grades that they teach
  - Classes range from 18 – 25 students, class size is up throughout the city, and classroom aides support the larger classes.
  - Newton operates as a neighborhood schools, and these schools are inclusive, there are 11 kids with special needs.
  - 22 new students from K – 5 (typical number)
  - 21 students from Boston (5 new children)
  - 73 students speak a language other than English at home
  - 20 languages spoken at home
  - Burr is a Title One School meaning that there are a certain number of children whose families are eligible for reduced lunch fees. Burr is one of 4 Newton Schools that qualifies for this and it means we receive extra funds. This is spent on Literacy aides, assistants in Math and other subjects, homework assistance, and after school MCAs support.
  - The school librarian is working 6/10ths
  - All the assistants that are here this year, were here last year.
  - There will be student teachers and interns in the school this year. Cindy is even getting an intern.
  - Of the 16 classroom teachers, all but 3 have been here for more than 2 years.
- Goals for this year are: Achievement for all students, Respect for Human Differences, Curriculum and Technology Integration, Maintain a safe and vibrant school environment

**Introduction to Jonathan Yeo, School Committee candidate**

- Jonathan Yeo, unopposed school committee candidate for Ward 4 was introduced. He lives in Auburndale, was a Co-President of the Williams PTO. Wanted to introduce himself to the Burr Community and let our folks know that they can get in touch with him by phone 617-630-8180 or by email yeofamily@comcast.net.

**Budget**

- Ellen Regan, Treasurer, presented the 2005/2006 budget in detail. Ellen answered questions about the fundraising goals and expenditures from last year. There was a motion to accept, it was seconded, and the budget was approved..

### **Discussion of response to Hurricane Katrina**

- Cindy Bencal reported that there were 4 teachers who were very enthusiastic about organizing a way for Burr students to help aide the people affected by Hurricane Katrina. Donna MacDonald, Jane Franz, Jodi Michna, and Sonja Bloom are looking for parents who would brainstorm about ideas and help put those ideas into action.

### **Introduction of PTO coordinators**

- The coordinators each spent a few minutes describing what the committees do and highlighted an area or two where they could really use some additional parental involvement. The coordinators are Kristin Ballif and Lori Wheeler for Community Building, Susan Cassidy for Communications, Mary-Tara Roth for Fundraising, and Ezra Hausman – standing in for Susan Foster, Education Support.

### **Selection of Room Parent Coordinators**

- Jeanne Scott and Mala Shah described the role of the room parent coordinator and the process for selecting room coordinators and room parents. They selected two names for room parent coordinators.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

**Sign up sheets for PTO committees and activities were available after the meeting.**

**Refreshments were kindly provided by BreadSong Bakery in Auburndale.**