

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

**School Council**

- Rich Alexy introduced himself as a new member of the Burr School Council. They are currently looking at topics such as Holiday celebrations and lunchtime improvements. Any suggestions or feedback can be emailed to [school-council@burrpto.org](mailto:school-council@burrpto.org).

**. Playground Update**

- Mary Lewis gave an update on the progress of the playground committee. One climbing structure has been removed and a “Tarantula” climber has been ordered to take its place. She hopes to have a Parent/Volunteer Playground Clean Up day soon as well.

**Book Fair and Burr Clothing Update**

- Roberta Whalen reported that the Book Fair made \$2,500.00 on the first day. The Burr Sweatshirts/baseball shirts and hats are also now available from the Fifth Grade.

**Other Business**

- Cindy Bencal gave a reminder that a School Council meeting is coming up which will be open to parents to discuss the Newton Schools budget. She also mentioned that there was another meeting tonight to discuss the proposal of a Group Home moving into the Burr neighborhood.
- Mary Tara Roth updated the Fundraising efforts thus far. The Election Day Bake Sale is next week for anyone interested in donating goodies. She also mentioned linking the playground fundraising efforts with the “SchoolPop” program and looking into the STAPLES Cartridges for Kids program.

**Balanced Literacy**

Cindy introduced Donna McDonald, Literary Specialist, to give us an overview of the Balanced Literacy program used at Burr. Donna discussed the program, the different stages of reading and the program’s components. She finished up her presentation with a slideshow.

Teachers set up stations that touched on different aspects of reading, such as how to effectively read with your child, and picking a just right book.

Meeting was adjourned.