

## **Minutes of the PTO Meeting, September 17, 2003**

**Budget Presentation and Discussion:** Holli Roth presented the budget for 2003-04 (see reverse). New this year is a larger than usual line item for teacher supplies under the School Operations portion of the budget. This reflects money that the PTO spent at the beginning of this year to fill teachers' initial "wish lists" of classroom supplies and includes money for another disbursement midway through the year. For the money earmarked for Technology, the PTO will either put together a Technology Committee to decide how to spend it, or leave it up to the teachers. The main proposal is to purchase a wireless cart, a five-pack of computers, and probably also an LCD projector and a laptop, all of which can rotate among the classrooms. The proposed budget was accepted.

**Principal's Address:** Cindy Bencal welcomed everyone to a new school year and gave an update on current statistics (e.g., 303 students, 4 new teachers, 14 METCO students, 61 speakers of languages other than English at home, and 17 languages represented). Burr is again a Title 1 school, eligible for government funding, which will be used for 2 aides in grades 3, 4, and 5 for math and reading, an extra Early Literacy aide for kindergarten, speakers, materials, professional development for teachers, and an additional LCD projector and laptop, among other things. Ms. Bencal gave a brief overview of the Early Literacy Program, which replaces PIRP; touched on the new Fire Department regulations, which prohibit schools without sprinkler systems, including Burr, from covering more than 20% of their wall space with displays; and thanked Billy and Nancy Hunt and Kathleen Maguire, who have since resigned, for their work on the PTO over the summer. Kelly McDade and Terri Romanelli will remain in their positions as Secretary and Treasurer, and former Presidents Mary Lewis, Sharon Fagan, Jamie Freed and Roberta Whalen will help out in the interim until new leadership is in place.

### **Business Meeting**

*Fundraising/Upcoming Events:* This is an auction year, so lots of help will be needed for that, starting in October or November for the March 13 event. Betsy Bassett described a Fun Run, to be held to benefit Pediatric Visiting Nurses, which will be held in Waban October 25, with a 1-mile walk, a 5K walk, and a 5K run. If you pledge to a runner or walker, Burr will get a third of the money. The Halloween Family Fun Night will also be held at Burr October 25, and the Gift Wrap Fundraiser will begin September 26. The Scrip program, which offered cards for grocery stores and other retail outlets, was very successful last year and could potentially be a big source of funds. A motion was passed to buy \$10,000 worth of cards to sell to the community; the advantage is that, with the up-front purchase, people would get their cards immediately.

### **PTO Leadership**

Mary Lewis noted that 2 or 3 people are needed to serve as PTO Co-Presidents. Another possibility is to break down the Co-President job into individual responsibilities and find people to take these on. Jackie Gelb and Jean Weinberg volunteered to serve on a committee with Mary, Sharon, Jamie, and Roberta to define the various tasks involved and to propose ways to restructure the leadership organization. They will report at the October meeting and a vote will be held then.

(Submitted by Mary Donchez)