

## **PTO Minutes for February 1, 2015**

-Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**In attendance:** Crystal Downey, Katie Firth, Kim Switchenko, Jen Hoboth, John Bello, Christina Haynes.

There are no minutes to review at this meeting. We will do a double minutes check next time, Mrs. Firth said.

---Mrs. Firth reported that teachers are excited about the upcoming professional development day on Feb. 17. There are many choices for sessions.

---Coffee with Dr. Garcia, the superintendent of schools, will take place at Sweeney School from 7:45-8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24. Mrs. Firth noted teachers will only be available for the first 15 minutes until they pick their students up at 8 a.m. for class, and then parents and community members will visit.

--Mrs. Firth reported that everyone is excited about upcoming mini courses. The courses will be on Friday afternoons on March 6, 13, 27. The form already went home to ask parents to volunteer. The booklets will go home with students on Feb. 12.

----Taste of Sweeney & basket raffle: We want to get the baskets ready for parents to see during parent-teacher conferences on March 19 & 20. Baskets will be raffled at the Taste of Sweeney. President Haynes said she thinks the PTO should sponsor a basket. The PTO will sponsor a "Taste of Willimantic" basket with some Main Street gift certificates, etc. Businesses will be asked to chip in for the basket. We need to pick a date for the Taste of Sweeney. Kim will put a sign-up board in the teacher's lounge with sticky notes up for ideas for baskets. The Taste of Sweeney date will be picked tomorrow.

----Mrs. Firth passed on a fundraiser idea/catalog to President Haynes.

---Treasurer Kim Switchenko gave the treasurer's report: Nothing has changed since last time. \$7,408.47 is the balance. Project Fit \$464.37 is available for fixes, trash cans, etc. Kim would like to use that money up. The Holiday Bazaar account (\$631.41) is being used for Popsicle treats, etc., for student Starbucks rewards. We also have \$150 we were given by BJs Michelin account. Kim will buy 2 pop-up nets for the playground with that money.

---Next Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> is the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser.

----Parent's report: Crystal has no reports at this time.

---Mr. Bello, the school family liaison, gave his report. He has postponed a parenting group three times because of the snow. He said he will hopefully start it on March 23 at the West Avenue Community Center. He explained it is a parent leadership group that aims to teach parents how to be leaders. The parents have liked the group in the past, he said. The group ends with a community service project, he said. Last year the group was held at Windham Heights. They requested used uniform shirts, had a display, people were able to go and trade and get shirts. Many people were able to get uniform shirts.

There is also a parent tour of the state Capitol building in Hartford, will be a guided tour. Mr. Bello will invite parents on that.

---Mr. Bello also said there will be a community expo in June at Jillson Square. There will be different community agents represented there. Eastern will be there, Generations will be there. Each school will have a table, and possibly the afterschool program will have a table there. We have high hopes for this one, Mr. Bello said.

---Mr. Bello noted he is available to help parents with Medicaid forms.

---There was discussion that there may be a uniform swap in May for parents.

---President Haynes reported the District PTO meeting was cancelled again.

---Munson's Chocolates fundraiser fliers were given to teachers to distribute to students today. Information is in Spanish and English. Fliers will go home on Friday. Orders need to be back by March 2 and the order needs to be called in by March 6. Parent pick-up date will be Wednesday, March 25. Parents who don't get to pick it up on the 25<sup>th</sup> can get it on Math Night, March 26. Easter is April 5.

---The Nautalis Brass assembly will have to be rescheduled, due to a snow day.

---Family Activity Night in April – Kim is thinking about the best date for it, based on when Eastern gets out so students will still be available to help. April 20-24, will revisit the date.

---Mr. Bello talked about the McKinney Ventos Team, which he is on; each school has one. Sweeney's team is made up of, Shannon Robinson, the school social worker, Mr. Bello, UConn intern and homeless coordinator, identifying homeless school families and making sure they get those services they need.

---Box tops need to be in Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Crystal said. Class that collects the most gets an ice cream party or some kind of a treat/reward like that and a trophy.

---Mug of Love – Feb. 12, 6-7:30 p.m. Kim will secure a hot water dispenser. Maybe make milk available to cool the cocoa down if too hot. Kim will set up DVD equipment and sound system. Donations will be accepted of hats, mittens, scarves, coats, snow pants, and people will be able to take what they need that night. Mr. Bello will run a sign-in, welcome table at the door. Discussion about future events, including an outdoor movie night in the summer.

---Book Fair date is not set; PTO will discuss dates with Jessica.

---Kim talked about PTO mini-grants. They were offered previously for \$50 for a project or to supplement a project for a teacher in a classroom, like a listening center. Could be offered for between \$50-\$75. There was a limit to what was given out on a first-come, first-serve basis. PTO decided the mini-grants will be capped at a total of \$1,000.

---President Haynes made a motion that \$1,000 be allotted for mini-grants. Kim seconded. No one opposed, Motion passed. President Haynes has the old grant application.

---Discussed flowers for teacher appreciation. President Haynes made a motion that we buy pizza for teachers for parent-teacher conferences for \$100. Seconded by Crystal and approved.

**---Next PTO meeting is March 11 at 3:30 p.m.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.**