

Minutes

PTO Meeting – January 21, 2009

The Woodland School

9:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by Jacqui Mandelbaum, PTO Co-President

Mr. Celebre

- Mr. Celebre, our interim principal spoke for a few minutes
 - o He thanked parents for all their volunteer efforts
 - o He commented on the amount of positive activity at Woodland School
 - o He was very impressed by the organization of events and volunteers
- Mr. Celebre had a training session to attend after his kind words

Approval November Minutes

- A motion for approval was made by Cindy Percario
- Mimi Morrison seconded the motion
- The minutes were passed unanimously

Teacher Liaison

- Mrs. Ryan attended at the teacher's representative
- She mentioned things are a bit hectic with the transition of principals but everyone is adjusting nicely
- Mrs. Ryan complimented the Newark Boys Choir for an outstanding performance and a great experience for the kids of both communities
- She noted that teachers interested in getting involved with the Winter School Fair should contact Kerri Tocci or Jacqui Mandelbaum

Budget

- Rebecca Keenan discussed the budget and that the PTO is doing well
- Smart Boards
 - o The 5th grade Smart Boards are being installed the 1st week of February
 - o The 2nd grade Smart Boards will begin installation in the beginning of November
 - o Catherine Niemeyer motioned to approve the budget
 - o Tracy Dario seconded the motion
 - o The roll out with teachers has worked well as their enthusiasm has really helped

- Mrs. Ryan complimented Ms. Rita Brown and Miss Wisner for their flex hour training program
- All parents and volunteers were reminded to please hand in receipts in a timely manner

Food Days

- The PTO was budgeted to generate approx. \$20,000 in funds, but may reach \$22,000 this year
- Ciro's now provides the hot subs for our food day; parents are encouraged to stop by Ciro's to try one out
- February 1st starts the new ordering cycle
- Parents are asked to please try paying by credit card in the future

Social Action Committee

- Cheryl Opell and Lori Roth are hard at work creating and facilitating new initiatives to bring us closer to our surrounding communities
- There is at least one event scheduled for each month through the end of the year
 - February – Baby Necessities collection and Local Family Food Drive
 - March - Backpack food Drive
 - April – Book Drive for Camp Jatoni
 - May and June – Boundbrook Soup Kitchen Food Drive
- This committee is always looking for suggestions from the Woodland community

International Day

- Christine Prinzivalli spoke about the upcoming event
- 5 countries will be represented – Mexico, India, China, Portugal and Ireland
- Each child will receive a passport with his/her photograph on it
- These passports will be stamped as the students enter each country
- Some highlights of the day:
 - China – Dragon Dance
 - India – Music and Henna tattoos
 - Mexico – Mariachi Band
 - Ireland – Irish Dancers and lessons
 - Portugal – regional cuisine
- There will not be any recess or specials on this day
- Students are invited to wear costumes showing their heritage

Winter Fair

- Cindy Percario spoke about the upcoming event
- There will be lots of activities for the students and their families
- Some activities include and blow up jumper, baskets, and great prizes including a Wii

- The committee is hoping homeroom moms as well as others will volunteer at least ½ hour of their time that day
- Mrs. Ryan will encourage teachers to participate as well

Read Across America

- Jill Larson spoke about this much loved event
- The month of February is Woodland's Read-a-thon
- Students will record the number of minutes they read every night with prizes awarded for the most minutes
- Suesseville is coming to Woodland again with volunteers needed to help out
- There will be information in the upcoming W@W

Casino Night

- This event will take place on March 21st at Twin Brooks Country Club
- Donations are needed for baskets and the silent auction
- The committee is looking for sponsors for Gaming Tables
- It is sure to be a fun night

New Principal Search

- Jacqui Mandelbaum and Jill Larson sat with Dr. Crisfield who encouraged all parents to fill out the on-line survey
- The Board of Education has received over 50 resumes and is putting together a profile
- The Search Committee is made up of 5 members including Dr. Crisfield and two board members
- As of our January meeting no Woodland parents or teachers were represented on the committee
- Interviews will be conducted in March
- An announcement of the principal will be made by the end of March
- The new Woodland School Principal will begin on July 1, 2009
- Jacqui Mandelbaum noted that Mr. Hansen is now the interim principal at a school in Livingston, New Jersey
 - o There were many factors included in Mr. Hansen's decision
 - o State law prohibited him from filling the role of interim principal at Woodland

Budget Committee

- Luisa Young and Cheryl Opell will chair the annual "Budget Vote" committee
- They will start organizing at the end of February
- Volunteers are needed to help stuff envelopes and get information to local nursery schools

Dad's Day Out

- The afternoon at Rolf's in Warren was a success with 40 dads and friends attending

- The 50/50 raised \$216 for Woodland School
- The dads seemed to really enjoy the playoff game

Craft Day

- Debbie Vetter and Dorothy Rose both agreed that the celebration was a success and thanked everyone for their hard efforts

Holiday Staff Lunch

- Terry Pacetti did a great job and the teachers expressed their gratitude for the luncheon

Grade Level Musical Performance for Seniors

- This is a nice way to reach out to our community and let them know we are thinking of them
- Mr. Hansen was in support of this for local seniors and the 3rd grade students were looking forward to doing it again
- Mrs. Ryan suggested scheduling the performance for seniors for the morning of the friends and family performance
- When the students perform for the seniors the next day they are often very tired from the previous night
- Another suggestion was to make the evening performance start earlier

YMCA After School Clubs

- Sports Potpourri gave kids a great workout and will be offered again in mid-March; sign ups in mid-February
- The club notice for all other after school clubs has already gone out
- Anyone with suggestions for new clubs, please contact Jacqui Mandelbaum
- Some examples cited were "girls on the run", art club, ballet, yoga and hip hop dance

Dine Around

- Christine Prinzivalli has been running this with much success
- Chuck-e-Cheese was very popular and gave families and opportunity to socialize outside of school
- The schedule will continue as follows:
 - o February - Stuarts Root beer
 - o March - Pizza Hut
 - o April – Burger King and Figaro's
 - o May - Applebees