

## Minutes

PTO Meeting – September 17, 2008

The Woodland School

7:30 p.m.

*The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by Jill Larson and Jacqui Mandelbaum, PTO Co-Presidents.*

### REMARKS FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

#### Back to School Highlights

- Many thanks to Debbie Vetter for ordering School Supply Kits which were distributed to students at Orientation
- Jill Larson is working with the School Tool kit company to replace the book socks we received since they were too small for our text books. Please look for information in the W@W regarding the replacement book socks.
- Many thanks to Jennifer Nuzzi for organizing a terrific Teacher's Luncheon
- Special thanks to Keriann Linton for gathering the Kindergarten Parents at the annual Popsicle Social during Orientation. It was a success and many new parents had an opportunity to meet one another.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Woodland

- Debbie Vetter and Dorothy Rose and their committee have been working all Summer on this year's 10 year celebration
- They have updated the Teacher's Staff Lounge with the help of volunteers organized by Bonnie Huevelman
  - o A vote was unanimous in passing the \$800 budget for improvements to the lounge - It was motioned by Maria Seckler and seconded by Jinny Fippinger
  - o Improvements included new carpeting, new curtains, a new coffee machine, and new flooring
- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of school a 10 year old tree was planted in celebration
  - o Thanks to Dorothy and Scott Rose for planting the tree and the PTO for providing a beautiful plaque
  - o Thanks to Bonnie Huevelman and family for the donation of the 10 year old tree
  - o Woodland students sang songs, helped plant the tree, and promised to return in 2018
  - o The celebration appeared on the front page of the Echo Sentinel
- A time capsule was created by the committee, the staff and the students
  - o Thank you to Bonnie Heuvelman for the donation of the time capsule
  - o It will be retrieved on September 5, 2018
  - o Included were pictures of every class, Top 10 t-shirt, TRRFCC pencils, and a letter from Mr. Hansen

- The committee is celebrating all teachers this year but highlighting those at the school for 10 years in the Word at Woodland
- Thanks to Jennifer Nuzzi who created the “Woodland History” booklet
- Debbie Vetter discussed the Family Fall Festival
  - o October 18<sup>th</sup> 1-4 – Rain or shine
  - o Volunteers are needed for the many activities planned
  - o Some activities include Pumpkin decorating, Scarecrow building with prizes awarded, pie eating contests, face painting, 50/50, hayrides, a plant sale, and a 3 legged race

### **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Movie Night**

- Great turnout despite the rain
- Madagascar was a hit for all ages
- The PTO plans to host another movie night

### **School Spirit Clothing Sale**

- Items will be on sale via order forms on September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Look for info in the Word at Woodland
- New items will be available such as long sleeved t-shirts, sweat shirts, sweat pants, hats and car magnets
- Bonnie Heuvelman is the contact and may have samples at Back to School Night October 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Teacher Liaisons – Mrs. Anita Brower and Ms. Christina Ryan**

- They see their role as the communication link between the faculty and the parents/PTO
- They passed a giant card around with chocolate “hugs and kisses” as a “thank you” for the new Teacher’s Lounge and expressed the gratitude of all the faculty and staff
- They enjoyed the Teacher’s Luncheon and reflected that it is a wonderful time for staff members to sit, take a breath and enjoy each other’s company
- Ms. Ryan expressed how important emotions are for children and how positive influences like Jonathan Sprout, the Pillars of Character, and the tree planting ceremony are for our children

### **Mr. Hansen’s Report**

- Complimented the PTO that our parents “Get it”, meaning we are here for our kids and recognize how important that is to Woodland School and all children
- Reminded parents that these are the “magic years” for our children and how special it is for your child to see you at Woodland to show how important school is and how important your child is
- Reminded parents to ask themselves if they did everything they could to for their child that day
- NJ Ask scores Woodland school was 1st in our town
- Kids with character turn into adults with character
- “Be careful what you say, be careful what you do, be kind to one another all day through”

### **School Budget**

- Budget committee will be formed soon - the PTO is looking for someone to Chair the committee this year
- Everyone was reminded how important it is to vote
- Being a member of the committee is a great way to meet parents from other schools in town

### **Food Days**

- Ordering days are marked on the school calendar
- Maria Seckler is the Chair and reminded everyone to please get orders in on time
- Food Days are Woodland's biggest fundraiser generating approximately \$20,000 per year
- It has a material impact on the school with proceeds returning to the school
- Small increase in prices this year, due only to price increase from vendors
- Lunch is available 5 days a week, plus popcorn once a week and ice cream two times a week
- Volunteer opportunities are always available, welcomed and appreciated
- Maria reminded parents to please consider paying by credit card on the secure website as checks may take longer to process
- Once a Food Day cycle has begun, no changes can be made to current orders

### **Treasurer Report**

- Copies of the current approved budget were available
- The beginning cash was listed at \$31,000
- The cost of the Smart Boards to the PTO was the only change with the budget

### **Membership Drive and Directory**

- PTO Membership is now available for a nominal fee of \$10
- Members receive a directory of the Woodland Families
- A reminder was given regarding PTO Membership Forms and changes that need to be made on addresses, phone numbers, etc.

### **Fundraising 2008/2009**

- Certain fundraisers were eliminated and replaced with an appeal letter
- The appeal letter went to every Woodland Family
- As of meeting \$3,000 of the \$6,000 goal had already been raised
- Parents were informed that some companies may have a matching program for employees donating to their children's school

### **Dine Around**

- Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> – America on Rye
- This will be a monthly event held at a different location each time
- It is an opportunity for parents to skip cooking one night, mingle with other Woodland families, and support local businesses

- 15% of proceeds from Woodland customers will go directly back to the school for programs and enrichment events

### **SearchandGive.com**

- Support Woodland through this Microsoft driven website
- Students and parents can go online, create an ID and help raise funds by collecting “tickets” every time you visit the site
- Every ticket collected equals a monetary amount that will be sent directly back to Woodland with no cost to the student or parent

### **Box Tops**

- Parents were reminded to please send them in
- An ice cream party will be the reward to the class that collects the most

### **Back to School Night**

- Opportunity for parents to meet their child’s teacher again as well as other parents
- This will be the final night of the Woodland School Appeal
- There will be a Smart Board on display that night

### **Book Fair**

- The Fair will begin in October 1<sup>st</sup> and will be open late that evening
- It will be open during Back to School Night
- All proceeds will benefit our classroom libraries.
- Each class will get a chance to visit the Fair and create a wish list that parents can see
- There will also be “Teacher’s Classroom Wish Bins” on display during the Book Fair

### **Smart Boards**

- Interactive boards that teachers can do lesson plans on and students use as an interactive tool
- The PTO had \$11,100 budgeted for the Smart Boards and is now getting additional funds from the Board of Education – this allowed the PTO to reduce its contribution from \$11,100 to \$6,000
- Woodland School has five boards
- By next year both the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be equipped with Smart Boards
- Woodland School was the first school in the district to have these boards
- Currently we are scheduled to install the 4th Grade Smart Boards the first week of November

### **After School Clubs**

- Parents were reminded to have request forms in on time and that a lottery will be necessary for any clubs where the requests exceed the spaces available
- The YMCA is working with the PTO to bring “Sports Potpourri” and “Tae Kwon Do” to Woodland as after school programs as well

- The YMCA programs will be supplemented by the PTO and will run for about 8 weeks beginning by mid October

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 by Jill Larson*