

# Van Buren Moody Elementary School PTA

Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2009

**Opening:** The regular meeting of the Moody School PTA was called to order at 6:35pm on 09/21/09 at Moody School by PTA President Cara Williamson.

**Present: (27)** Jodi Lapham, Becky Tooker, Cathy Weiss, Becky Earl, Sarah Ladd, Lisa Ventrilli, Kym Ciccia, David Coleman, Carole Kargher, Lynn Misenti, Sue Tobin, Jing Wang, Michelle Bowden, Mamata Kirsur, Gracilda D'Mello, Celeste Fong, Tateisha Bond, Linda Heidorn, Cara Williamson, Janice Drescher, Tina Barone, Olivia DiMauro, Sandi Foster, Francine McKiernan, Isabelle Russo, Pam Wyatt, Yolande Eldridge

## **A. Distribution of Agenda/Treasurer's Report/JCJ Feasibility Update handout**

The Board Members introduced themselves. Cara Williamson welcomed everyone and encouraged people to join the PTA and receive a detailed school calendar as well as the ability to vote at a PTA meeting. Goals were shared to make for a positive PTA experience and smooth processes. An explanation provided that help will be needed with events as they will be organized by committees. Grade level sponsors will host events throughout the year. As much PTA info will be posted and available on the Moody School website. Wanted to take some of the burden off of parents so they didn't feel obligated to volunteer for every event. Hopefully this new format will encourage new parents, dads to volunteer. The dates and budget for events has been established. Event Planners have been put together to include suggestions from lessons learned. For example, 2008 Costume party and the fog machine donated by Celeste that set off fire alarm. Yolande reported fire department said to let them know in advance about possible use of fog machine and the settings on the detectors could be adjusted. Grade Level Sponsorship. For example for Bingo..Kindergarten families. Second grade: Movie Night. Volunteers who have a passion for an event does not need to abstain because of not having a child in a grade level.

One of PTA goals is to advocate on behalf of our families/children. Information about JCJ Feasibility Study was shared via copy from Middletown Eye and BOE website. Email any other resources to [Moodypta@mps1.org](mailto:Moodypta@mps1.org) so that accurate info can be relayed.

## **B. Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was presented by Janice Drescher using Power Point.

- PTA is a non profit organization dedication to supporting the teachers, students and families of Moody school.
- Fiscal year July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Last year ended with \$5232.64 in checking and \$5476.08 in money market. "Is this a typical amount asked by a parent." Yes it is. National PTA Regulations are allowed to have a special fund for a big project or for a lean year. Somewhere in the past this was done at Moody. The PTA for each new fiscal year may decide what to do with the funds.
- Proposed budget in diagram form. A few moments were given for reviewing the information and opportunity for questions.
- The largest expenses: field trips, class discretionary funds. Explanation of discretionary funds as money given to each classroom teacher to be used for purchasing materials for student use.
- The PTA Board met over the summer and decided how money could be used for the 2009-2010 school year.
- We have to earn or bring in \$22,825 in order to cover the expenses.

- Largest source of funds is fall fundraiser. Spring fundraiser will be art keepsakes. New ones: Coldstone creamery, mothers day plants. Third largest fundraiser: Boxtops/Campbells. “Have forms been sent out for boxtops?” A chair has just been assigned and forms will be coming home soon. A planner is being created to send to the chair of Boxtops/Campbells.
- Profit and Loss statement will be presented each month at the regular PTA meeting. Used to track our actual expenses/income and compare to original budget. Upon review, decisions can be made to move forward.
- A financial request form is a new item this year and will be used to track requests for money spent for events. Forms will be submitted to Janice for reimbursement. Sometimes a PTA check is needed for a volunteer to purchase in order to have tax id number. New ideas of how to raise money/fundraiser or a new idea for how to spend our money may be submitted using this form. Janice will bring suggestions to Board for discussion and then item will be added to future meeting agenda.
- Janice extended a thank you to volunteers.
- Motion to accept budget made by Pam Wyatt. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Celeste Fong. “What is the money in the budget for outdoor recess?”. Balls, Jump Ropes, etc. Motion Passed.

### C. Committee Reports

- **Movie Night** update by chair, Pam Wyatt. She and committee of 7 have enjoyed the process and felt the Board made the planning simple and easy due to the info provided in the Event Planner. The students voted and Hotel for Dogs was chosen for Friday’s movie night. 54 tickets have sold so far. Another flyer went home today. Deadline is Wednesday. What do we do if someone does show at the door to purchase tickets? If there is room in the facility to accommodate more than purchases at the door will be allowed. Yolande provided info about a volume problem from last year. Nettie Silverman is working to set up equipment. Gary is available to help. More discussion needed to fine tune. Should be addressed before Friday night.
- **Fall Fundraiser:** Celeste Fong At this point just waiting for orders to come in. Celeste will handle all the math but will need help at the time of arrival of stuff. Celeste has limitations with lifting. Orders are organized by classrooms and expected to arrive prior to Thanksgiving. Volunteers will be recruited at next meeting. Celeste suggested that box of free stuff be used as a nice thank you gift or use as raffle. A reminder will be sent out to the parents this week. 3 teacher raffles donated by Celeste will be used as a way to appreciate the teachers as a recognition of work for the teachers. Every child that brings in an order will have an entry to the teacher gift raffle.
- **Fall Book Fair:** Susan Rosenblum is the chair. Nothing to report at this time. The Book Fair will be in October as an International Theme. Celeste has decorations she would be willing to donate. 3,4,5<sup>th</sup> grade families will act as volunteers.
- **Spirit Days:** One Friday a month. First one is this Friday. Blue/White. Listed on the PTA calendar. Three throughout the year as Moody Spirit Clothing. A PTA trophy has been donated with the hope for encouraging more participation. Teachers will tally participation. Class with most participation will be announced and presented with the trophy in the office and have their photo taken for display in cafeteria.
- **Moody Spirit Clothing:** (Blue and White clothing with school logo) Pam Wyatt and Sue Tobin volunteered to look into purchasing. T-shirts, sweatshirts for kids. Researched options 5.95 / tshirt to 19.99 Range. Printed t-shirts at the lower. JBS sports. Pam came up with possible designs for the shirts. Polo shirts for adults ranged from \$11.95-\$30/40 dollars if they are embroidered. Our intention is not to have it as a fundraiser. Question? Order a bunch of shirts and sell them. No dates so they can be used in future years. When and where can we sell them?

Send home through flyers? Ask school store if they can make it a school store item. Send home a flyer. Money comes in an envelope with child's name/size. Janice was suggesting details to be worked out in the future. Yolande reported that former staff at another school LOVED to purchase clothing. Yolande suggested a pricier version of LandsEnd. Parents may wish to buy also. Lands End start up cost with logo and then have the option to buy one at a time.

- **Motion** to have executive board in conjunction with Pam and Sue work out the details. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carole Kargher. Motion passed.

#### **D. Principal's Report:**

- Welcome from Yolande. Kids are wonderful. Great opening. Running beautifully.
- Two brand new picnic tables. Courtesy of previous PTA due to an overage.
- 9 new staff. Check them out on the website.
- STARS program will continue.
- Safety: Watch out for people who pull up in front of the school as turning corner. It's illegal and dangerous to pull up and drop. Can you put cones up? Cement sign dragged out by Gary. Yolande is going to try and get other signage.

#### **E. New Business**

- Intersection Safety: Sargent Elkin: Feasibility study for a traffic light. Blinking light? We didn't qualify. New Signage. Roadway markings. Speed limit signs. Mega fines if you speed through a school zone. Once the signs are up, police will monitor and issue tickets.
- School parking lot safety. Dangerous drivers/speeders. Ideas to brain storm for the future to address concerns. Safety message presented to school community as a joint effort from PTA/Yolande as reminder. Perhaps a safety group could be created? In conjunction with Yolande. Celeste Fong will lead the group effort.
- Sale of Seussical Props: The PTA spent \$500-\$600 for props/costumes. Melanie DeSole asked if PTA would be interested in selling/renting our props. The Meriden YMCA is interested.
- Motion made by Janice Drescheer that the PTA does approve of selling props/costumes at a price to be determined by the PTA Board. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pam Wyatt. Motion Passed.
- Homework passes were distributed so that parents who have chosen to attend the PTA meeting would not have to do homework with their child after heading home from the meeting. Classroom teachers will be letting students know what type of homework may be excused on PTA meeting nights. Long term projects do not qualify for being excused with this homework pass.

#### **Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:39 by Cara Williamson. The next general meeting will be at 6:30 on October 19 in library at Moody School.

Minutes submitted by: Linda Heidorn (PTA Secretary)

Approved by: