

Van Buren Moody Elementary School PTA

Meeting Minutes October 19, 2009

Opening: The regular meeting of the Moody School PTA was called to order at 6:35pm on 10/19/09 at Moody School by PTA President Cara Williamson.

Present: Members: Tateisha Bond, Janice Drescher, Michelle Bowden, Wayne Carlson, Elsie DeToro, Yolande Eldridge, Olivia DiMauro, Celeste Fong, Stacia Grosso, Linda Heidorn, Val Martin, Claudine McGur, Francine McKiernan, Lynn Misenti, Joan Pestritto, Rosario Rocuzzo, Rosemary Shea, Mandy Sickel-Smith, Sue Tobin, Becky Tooker, Lisa Ventrelli, Cathy Weiss, Cara Williamson, Pam Wyatt

A. Distribution of Agenda and Minutes

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (September 2009) were unanimously approved as distributed. Questions arose regarding the PTA bylaws and looking into loopholes to get the minutes posted on the website sooner than waiting until the following month's meeting to have the minutes approved. Stacia Grosso is familiar with Roberts Rules and will look into the potential of posting proposed minutes on the website to get info out to families in a more timely manner.

C. Treasurer's Report presented by Janice Drescher.

- Balance on hand = \$19,974.69
- \$5,000 estimated net income from Jeannine fundraiser. Once all transactions are complete, the correct net income for this fundraiser will be captured in next month's report. Check still needs to be sent to Jeannine to pay for the items purchased.
- Fall book fair income anticipated in late October.
- \$325 has been received in individual family donations! Thank you!
- \$500 approximate outstanding costs from Costume Party.
- \$1200 estimated funds raised from Costume Party
- \$960 Budgeted amount for Cultural Council / Actual paid amount \$669.
- \$544.35 unexpected amount raised at Movie Night due to lower than anticipated expenses and higher than anticipated attendance)
- 23% of Indoor Recess funds have been spent and none of the outdoor recess funds
- Question about field trip money. \$15 per child has been allocated. First grade has chosen 2 field trips which will require two buses. As a result, the teachers have requested additional monies from families as it may cost more than the \$15 per child donated by the PTA. A question was raised about financial hardship. Student activity account to help children with financial hardships.

- Brian Roy: Audit PTA: Last year we were physically sound. One thing he would like to stress is that the goal is to have \$6000 for the following year. Not much interest is earned so avoid hoarding of money. A six year analysis was offered on a handout. When comparing this year vs last year the Spring fundraiser is the only variance. Moody PTA is one of the strongest in town and is pulling numbers more than double other schools in town.
- Question raised about the fundraiser that raised \$8000 in 2008. Was it pies? Suggestion made to rotate items sold from year to year.

C. President's Report

Our goal of bringing Moody families together seems to be working through many volunteers stepping up and running successful event. We are encouraged and grateful for the incredible teacher support such as 4 teachers present at the meeting tonight and 9 teachers helping with the costume party. Yolande has been supportive, available and meets with the PTA on a regular basis. Our role is to advocate on the behalf of our families. To understand what's going on in our community that impact Moody school. We can't do it all. How can we get accurate and professional info back to our families? JCJ? BOE? The formation of sub committees has been proposed in order to address issues such as parking lot safety. Celeste Fong has volunteered. A sign up list was sent around to recruit more people to brainstorm solutions regarding safety in the parking lot. A request was made to invite people to help advocate on the behalf of Moody parents when it comes to the JCJ visioning process. The goal would be to gather the information and get the information out there so families can respond in a more informed manner.

Tomorrow night is the meet the candidate 7-9 for BOE. Ask BOE to distribute to the school. Corinne Gill is our liason. Cara will contact Corinne to streamline the process.

Where can information be found? A handout reference was shared to help find the Moody School website. Questions, concerns, feedback are welcome via PTA email moodyppta@mps1.org or to drop a note in the school office PTA mailbox. We will always respond to the messages that are incoming as families insight can offer valuable feedback and lessons learned that can be documented for future use. Our primary goal is to make it warm and inviting.

D. Committee Reports

- Spirit Days: Successful. Explanation. Photos are available in the cafeteria. Solicit trophies.
- Spirit Clothing: A design has been selected. Ready this week. Navy blue with white lettering. Affordable for families under \$6.00 A minimum number of T-shirts have been ordered. Pam will be selling at the costume party. Extra orders will be taken from there. This is a "test run". Order forms will be sent home. Staff have been polled for their interest in Moody spirit gear. A fleece vest with some embroidery school name. Polo shirts suggested by Yolande. This is NOT a fundraiser. Considering keeping a shirt in reserve for display. Adult tees were several dollars more.
- **Fall Fundraiser:** orders being processed; check to be written to Jeannine; profit being determined; volunteers being solicited to distribute on November 9th.
- **Election Day Bake Sale:** Chairs have been in contact with PTA. Recruitment flyer for baked goods will be going home soon. About \$575 in profit traditionally. 6am-8pm. Volunteers needed. Soup, Chili, Breakfast food.
- **Coldstone Creamery:** 5:30-7:30 Yolande will be scooping ice cream the whole night. Erica Lyding Howe has also volunteered. 25 % of the profit plus a raffle basket with sporting stuff.

- **Fall Book Fair:** Seeking a few more volunteers. Going to be held Friday night during the evening at the costume party with one entrance.
- **Costume Party:** 400 (100 over capacity). Something will be sent home Wednesday. One side is going to have the schedule of events. Parking information. Suggest carpooling. Parking attendants will be
- **School Banking** to begin on November 9th. Anita Tetrault to organize.
- **BINGO Blast:** Celebrity Rocky Rockcats. Suggestion was made to invite Kevin Coddle (Hell's Kitchen)

D. Principal's Report and welcome offered by Yolande Eldridge. Excitement about the newly refinished gym floor? Makes the light so much better. All families are encouraged to take a look.

- Teacher training policy: Question has been raised about the teachers being out of the classrooms. These are the Professional Days that CEU's 90 hours every 5 years in order to maintain their certification. Boards of Ed are mandated by State Board of Ed to provide hours. Effective teaching strategies are reviewed and all children benefit from the time that teachers have to come together to learn. There are 33 meetings before or after school that teachers are required to attend. Grade level teaming time that's on their own time before/after school. Clarification offered on the new Benchmark testing on reading which is a District Initiative. By knowing the baseline, teachers will be able to offer more effective remediation. The process is very time consuming. Two and half children took all day for one teacher to test. This process is new to Middletown. Parents will know the results of benchmark. Explanation of how this information will be used. In hindsight, Yolande expressed regret about not explaining this initiative to families prior to the beginning of testing. This may have alleviated concern when children are coming home so frequently and stating that they had a substitute teacher. The teachers are excited about the information they are gathering and because they are in the building and often right outside their classroom they feel they are maintaining a connection with the students in the care of a substitute. They often will go in, introduce a lesson, get the students started and then turn instruction over to the substitute while testing an individual student in the hallway. The time away from the children for the testing will be made up by efficient instruction and much more individualized instruction for each student.
- Probe is no longer called Probe. It is called gifted and talented. Hank Stockmahl will be assigned to Moody school every other week for an hour and half. Grades 3,4,5. Units have been provided to teachers for use with advanced in the area of science. Independent study time. Facilitator stipend position for an after school program. Level 5 on CMT's. Lsats Stay99 on every area. More information to come in November newsletter and as the program takes shape. Yolande was just getting this information from central office as of this day.

E. New Business

Suggestion was made to explore fundraising opportunities through Iliano's restaurant. There is potential to earn 10% of all lunches/dinner Iliano's on a designated day.

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: