

JAMES W. ALEXANDER PTA, INC.
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
April 1, 2008

CALL TO ORDER:

President Betsy Reetz called the meeting to order at 7:15pm and led the flag salute. She welcomed teachers; Mrs. Coyne, Mrs. Fiorello and Mrs. Goliszewski. She also welcomed any visitors who might be in attendance.

Betsy welcomed Kristie Casole. She is a Girl Scout who asked for gently used children through young adult books. She is collecting them for Mercy House in Trenton.

ESTABLISHING QUORUM: (Executive Committee)

Excused from tonight's meeting and those present; see attached list.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Secretary's Report: The minutes were acknowledged and approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Tori reported from the Statement of Account for March 5, 2008 through April 1, 2008. A beginning balance of \$9,063.54, receipts of \$2,015.26, disbursements of \$408.89, and an ending balance of \$10,669.91. The report was filed for audit. (See copy of attached report.)

Correspondence: Tammy Rodriguez read thank you notes from Mrs. Zelins and Mrs. Tober.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget and Finance – Karin Casole reported on the Artwork fundraiser. She stated that 375 students participated; 108 purchased items, 83 magnets were returned and 12 of these purchased other items, there are 21 magnets still outstanding. The following teacher's had 100% magnets returned: Mrs. Ferraris, Mrs. Fiorello, Ms. Glonek, Mrs. Chirichella, Mrs. Camilleri, Mrs. Coyne, Mrs. Katz, Mrs. Burden and 5th grade Mrs. Nami. The total sales were \$3,849 with a profit of \$1,096.75.

Marianne Joralemon continued by thanking Cindy Devine and Kelly Sterns for their hard work with the reading fundraiser. She also thanked Karin Casole for all of her hard work with the art fundraiser.

Marianne stated that the Super 50/50 tickets will be going home with the students this week. Each student will receive a bag containing 10 tickets which sell for \$2 each. Each bag is labeled with the student's name and the corresponding ticket numbers. By assigning the ticket numbers to the students Marianne is hoping to have a better chance of contacting the winner especially in situations when the ticket stub lacks adequate information necessary to contact the winner. In some instances, the ticket stubs simply

had a first name on them. In other instances, parents sold the tickets at work and the ticket stubs had a first name and just four digits of a phone number. Please be assured that once the winners are contacted the remaining ticket stubs are shredded. She also urged everyone to please return any unsold tickets by May 8, 2008. The returned tickets are needed for accounting purposes. If anyone has any questions regarding this fundraiser please contact Marianne.

She went on to say that we will also be selling regular 50/50 tickets at the Trenton Thunder game on Friday, May 2nd. There is an A&M Fundraiser planned for the middle of May as well. Marianne is confident that once we complete the aforementioned fundraisers we will meet our fundraising goals for this school year.

Family Activities- Cindy Mimmo reported that Trenton Thunder night will be May 2. People are needed to walk around and sell 50/50 tickets; t-shirts with Alexander on them will possibly be available to wear.

The A&M fundraiser will be held the weekend before Mother's Day and we will be given Bob Bucks to use. 25% of sales will go to our school.

Field Day will be May 1. Room Moms should be getting volunteers to run their assigned games. Three-For-Me volunteers can also be used as helpers.

Fifth Grade Activities- Jodi reported that the yearbook has been submitted. There is a meeting for the DVD next week and the car wash will be held May 10.

Grandparents Day- Audrey reported that Grandparents Day will be held Friday, April 18 from 9:30-10:30. A flyer will be sent home to get a head count and the teachers will hand out the name tags once the special guests arrive in their classroom.

Health and Safety- Julie reported that the blood drive will be held April 19; she encouraged everyone to make an appointment.

She also reported that Robert Wood Johnson will host a free family fun night with a personal trainer and health talks etc. A discussion followed and May 29 seems to be the best day for this event. We will give out tickets so we can have an idea of how many people will be in attendance.

Julie also mentioned Recess Legislation. A discussion followed encouraging everyone to write to as many politicians as possible, to have recess become mandatory.

Kindergarten Registration- Jamie reported that Kindergarten Orientation will be held Monday, April 14. The Three-For-Me volunteers were contacted and there was a good response she hopes to have to only supply juice and water. Jamie asked if anyone had extra juice or water lying around she would take it.

Nominating Committee- Jennifer reported that the Nominating Committee met and created a slate of nominees. They are as follows: Treasurer-Julie McGuinness, VP of Budget and Finance-Ellen Iorio, First Vice President-Jodi Morgan, and Prseident-Tori McMahan.

Website- Betsy reported that we would like to have magnets for next September. She also asked that if you have any information for the website please forward it to Bev Braddock.

OLD BUSINESS:

Life Member Nominating Criteria – Betsy stated that development of criteria for this award remains pending. She hasn't heard from anyone since the last meeting about an interest in participating on a committee to develop criteria, so this item will remain pending.

Freedom Fest – Debbie Hamm reported that Freedom Fest will be held July 8-12 in Allentown. We could sell tickets for ½ price and receive a profit. Jodi Morgan made a motion (Motion #1) to sell the tickets for a fundraiser and Kathy Register made a second motion (Motion #2).

NEW BUSINESS:

Alexander Alumni Awards – Betsy stated that for those of us who are new, the Alexander PTA presents a monetary award at Steinert's Awards Night to one male and one female member of the graduating class who is also an Alexander Alumni for the purpose of offsetting the cost of their continuing education. For the next several years, we will also be presenting the Lorraine D'Zurilla Memorial Scholarship award to an Alexander alumnus who intends to pursue a career in the sciences, in memory of an Alexander teacher for whom science was a passion. For as long as Betsy has been a member of this PTA, the Steinert scholarship committee has chosen the award recipients and her question is whether we want to again have the scholarship committee choose the recipients or if we want to form a scholarship committee here to do it. She asked if there were any questions. Betsy asked for a motion from the floor to request selection of the scholarship recipients by the Steinert Awards Committee. The record will show that Marianne Joralemon made a motion for the scholarship recipients to be chosen by the Steinert Awards Committee. Is there a second? The record will show this motion was seconded by Jodi Morgan. There was no opposition. The motion passed unanimously. The award request also includes selection criteria. For last year's awards, the selection criteria for the Alexander Alumni Scholarship were: graduate of Alexander, must have attended Alexander for a minimum of 3 years and it was also specified that one male and one female recipient were to be chosen. For the D'Zurilla memorial scholarship, last year selection criteria were: graduate of Alexander, must have attended Alexander for a minimum of 3 years, intending to pursue a degree in the sciences. Is there any discussion needed regarding the selection criteria? Do I hear a motion from the floor for the selection criteria to remain the same as last year? Let the record show that Kathy

Register has made a motion for the selection criteria to remain the same as last year. Do I hear a second? Let the record show that the motion has been seconded by Debbie Hamm. All those in favor? Opposed? Motion passes unanimously.

Teacher Benefit/Back to School Kits - Jodi Morgan reported that unfortunately the teacher benefit has been cancelled. She also showed a Back-To-School kit which could be a fundraiser for next year. A discussion followed and it was decided that Jodi would get more info and input from the teachers to discuss at the next meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Board Surveys – Betsy stated that there is yet another annoying reminder about the board surveys. Committee placement for next year will begin at the end of this month, so if you haven't made your preferences known, please do so without delay. Membership, Summer Reading, and School Fair committees need to be in place by the June meeting at the latest.

Board Resignations – Betsy asked that if anyone will be resigning from the board for whatever reason, please put that in writing and submit as soon as possible.

Spring County Council Dinner Meeting – Betsy stated the meeting is scheduled for April 10th. Alexander will be a party of 9.

Lastly, Betsy announced that we have a VIP in our midst. Mary Ann Wherley was voted teacher of the year at her school.

Betsy turned the floor over to Mrs. Stevenson for the Principal's report.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mrs. Stevenson started off by announcing that the School election will be held April 15. She encouraged everyone to go vote. She explained that this election will lower our school tax rate. A discussion about why we were granted more money from the state followed.

She stated that March testing is over and everyone survived. The week of May 5th is when the 5th grade students will be taking the NJASK5.

Mrs. Stevenson stated that she is sad to say that after 36 years Mrs. Tompkins will be retiring. She also announced that Mr. Gus had his surgery a couple of weeks ago and it went well. In coordination with Character Education the students are encouraged to show support for Mr. Gus.

Mrs. Stevenson encouraged everyone to push character education. The students are bombarded with violence and she is trying to encourage peaceful conflict resolution. She wants students to know that it is ok to say no and feel good about their choices.

Mrs. Stevenson announced the following upcoming events.

April 4th Liberty Science Trip

April 10th Marking Period Ends

April 17th Report cards go home

April 18th Grandparents Day

April 21st and 22nd Spring Pictures (help defray the cost of the yearbook)

April 24th Take your child to work day (does not affect attendance of student)

April 25th Peppermint Puppeteers show

Lastly, Mrs. Stevenson is planning a career day for May 30th. She would like to have 30 minute presentations in the morning and conclude with an outdoor activity in the afternoon. The rain date would be June 6th.

GOOD OF THE ORDER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PTA Recognition Certificates – Jodi Morgan for a fabulous Founders Day.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

Debra Conti

Recording Secretary