

JAMES W. ALEXANDER PTA, INC.  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
December 4, 2007

**CALL TO ORDER:**

President Betsy Reetz called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and led the flag salute. She welcomed visitors to the meeting. Betsy circulated a sign up sheet for the Mercer County Founder Dinner on January 10<sup>th</sup>. She stated that Steinert will be hosting. If you are interested in going please sign up.

**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 McMahon reported from the Statement of Account for November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 through December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007. A beginning balance of \$13,377.80, receipts of \$2595.56, disbursements of \$4895.10, and an ending balance of \$11,078.26. The report was filed for audit. (See copy of attached report.)

**Correspondence:** Tammy Rodriguez read a thank you note from the third grade teachers for the book donation and breakfast.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Arts in Education** – Rachel congratulated everyone who entered the 2007-2008 Reflections program. She said the students did an excellent job of expressing their ideas of the theme "I Can Make A Difference By..." The committee was impressed not only with the creativity but with their actual efforts to help their community and to make the world a better place.

She reported that the following entries will advance to judging at the Mercer County level:

Music Composition- Conor Bright, David Kraus, Isabel Shin and Monica Hannani

Literature- Jacob Alu, Nicholas Crusser-Regan, Caroline Grabowski, Nicole Migliaccio, Cassandra Perry, Amanda Sorrento and Michael Wherley

Visual Arts- Slava Aleksandrovyeh, Emily Ann Devlin, Michael Keahon, Alexandra Mabin, Mackenzie Mabin, Katherine Miller, Alyssa Picerno, Sofia Roman, Emily Szuter and RJ Tummillo

Photography- Andrew Moticha, Conner Braddock, Jason Cech, EJ Skwara and Amanda Sorrento

Dance Choreography- Sarah Clark and Morgan Corello

Honorable Mentions were awarded to the following students. Their work is on display on the bulletin board in the hall by the library.

Literature- Matthew Costelow, Heji Lee, Kerry McFeeters and Jake Verga

Visual Arts- Sammy Abraham, Kevin Bussi, Melissa Civale, Christopher Fabian, Thomas Hackett, Kathleen Kerlin and Nicole Oakley  
Photography- Brianna Fitzpatrick and Lauren Sorrento

Lastly, Rachel reported that there will be a pizza party held in February for all the students who participated.

**Communications-** Sue Bishop reported that the Communications Committee has just completed the December newsletter with Julie McGuinnes as our publisher expert. Sue stated that it may not be sent home until Friday, Dec. 7th due to copying persons' availabilities. Thanks to all who submitted articles so timely. Thanks Bev for having the Reflections one ready to dump into publisher!

Sue also thanked Sondi for the winter bulletin board. Please feel free to put your PTA newsletters up there so all can see all of the scheduled events, fund raisers, etc.

She said thanks to last month's visit from Mike D'Elia we think we will be getting our things on HTV more often. He assured us that whatever we put in gets televised so lets try to get Alexander and all of our happenings on cable! Debbie Johanssen and Sue have an HTV word document to simplify it for you. Please let them know if you want it sent to you. Simply fill it out and send to Debbie and she will forward to Mrs. S. and send out after approval.

Also any pictures of students/teachers/parents involved in Alexander activities that are copyable for the newspaper are wanted. We'd like to try submitting them with a short sentence or two to the Times.

Lastly, Sue asked if anyone would be interested in being an apprentice to Julie for the newsletter. She added that Roberta Ridge is looking for pictures from the room reps for the yearbook.

**Educational Programs-** Rachel reported that the Animals of Egypt show was phenomenal! She stated that not only were the animals exceptional but the students were as well. The students eagerly participated and showed much enthusiasm.

The program for December is David Street's Weather Show. She stated that he is crazy about weather and now that the colder weather has arrived it is the perfect time for his show.

**Family Activities-** Cindy Mimmo reported that the Holiday Extravaganza will be on Friday from 6-9pm. Set up will be 1:30-3:30 pm. Santa will be there for pictures and Cindy Devine will be in charge of the 5-6 vendors. Jennifer will be distributing the poinsettias about 220 were sold.

**Founders Day-**Jodi Morgan reported that there will be a meeting tonight after the e-board meeting. She is still in need of a nomination for a community member.

**Budget and Finance-** Marianne Joralemon reported there will be a Red Robin fundraiser for Wed. 12/5; and thanked all who participated in the Barnes and Noble Fundraiser. She also stated there will be a Cheeseburger Cheeseburger fundraiser scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup>. Cindy Devine explained the proposed fundraiser with Us-Borne books. It will be done in conjunction with the Great Adventure read-a-thon. Students are encouraged to read at least 30 minutes per day and keep track of their reading. A prize will be awarded to the student who reads the most. Children will also solicit pledges as part of the read-a-thon. A prize will be awarded to the student who raises the most pledge money. Prizes will also be awarded to the class with the best participation and the class that raises the most money. 50% of the pledge \$\$ will be given to the student in the form of a gift certificate to a special book fair and 30% of the pledge money will be donated in cash to the PTA and 20% of the pledge money will be used to purchase new books for our school library.

Marianne also mentioned GoodSearch.com. She explained that our school is listed as Alexander Elementary School PTA on the website and that to date we have raised over \$7 from web searches and web shopping. She explained that each day the website selects a charity of the day. If our school is selected as charity of the day we will receive additional revenues. The GoodSearch information will be included in the school newsletter.

**Kindergarten Registration-** Jamie reported that Kindergarten registration will be held on Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 3pm. She stated that sweats and tees will be available for sale during registration. She also asked what everyone thought of a fact sheet in the Kindergarten folder. The group thought it was a great idea.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Life Member Nominating Committee** – Betsy stated that development of criteria for this award remains pending; discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

**Holiday Meeting/Celebration** – Betsy reported that at last month's meeting, it was the consensus of the group to postpone a holiday celebration until the January meeting. Cindy Devine has advised Betsy that the Hamilton PBA Hall is not available the night of our scheduled January meeting (the 8<sup>th</sup>). However, it is available the following Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup>. Moving the meeting to this date does not pose a problem for either Mrs. Stevenson or the officers. Betsy asked for a show of hands from anyone with a definite or potential conflict. All members present were in agreement with moving the date. Jodi Morgan has volunteered to oversee coordination of this event. Betsy circulated a sign up sheet for anyone willing to assist Jodi.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Holiday Gift-** Cindy Devine made an announcement asking that the executive board adopt a particular family for the holiday season. She spoke with Mrs. Stevenson and received information on the sizes and items this particular family would like. Cindy was pleased with everyone agreeing to participate.

**NJPTA Convention**–Betsy stated that she attended both days of the convention. She collected some interesting information which she will be sharing with the appropriate committee chairs. Audrey and Betsy had the opportunity on Saturday to hear some interesting points of view and vote on a number of issues. There were two proposed amendments to the local unit bylaws which Betsy overlooked in preparation for our last meeting. Both of them were approved and she'll get copies to us. Betsy asked is there any other new business which needs to be discussed at this time?

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

**MCCPTA Founder's Day Dinner** – Betsy stated the dinner is being held January 10<sup>th</sup> this year, which is really early. Sign up sheet was circulated

**Nominating Committee** – Betsy wanted to give everyone a heads up that we will be forming a nominating committee at the February executive board meeting. The nominating committee is responsible for polling all members of the executive board for potential candidates to fill officer positions which will become available effective 6/30/08 and identifying a slate of candidates for presentation to the board and the general membership. Between now and then, kindly consider serving as a member of this committee. It's also not too early to begin pondering whether you might be interested in an officer position. The positions of Treasurer, VP of Budget and Finance, First Vice President and President are all available. If you think you might be interested, Betsy suggests you speak with whoever is currently in that position to find out more about it. Betsy turned the floor over to Mrs. Stevenson for the Principal's report.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

Mrs. Stevenson started off by reminding everyone to vote for the referendum on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 2-9pm. She explained that Chesterfield has tried to pass a similar referendum and it was 18million the first year it grew to 37million the third time. She said if the referendum is not passed this time the cost will go up tremendously. She stated that concerned seniors may be eligible for a reimbursement if they fall within a certain tax bracket.

Mrs. Stevenson informed everyone about our new sign. She said that early act will be collecting gifts for children in our school community, and will be conducting a coat drive in January.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Betsy distributed recognition certificates as follows:

Bev Braddock & Rachel Sorrento - Outstanding Start the Arts Week

Cindy Mimmo and Marianne Joralemon – Outstanding School Fair

Karin Casole – for an expert job in organizing and running the “Snack Shack” for the School Fair

Cindy Devine & Kelly Sterns – for a terrific job on our Book Fair

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

*Debra Conti*

**Recording Secretary**