

JAMES W. ALEXANDER PTA. INC.  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
February 5, 2008

**CALL TO ORDER:**

President Betsy Reetz called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and led the flag salute. She welcomed visitors Mrs. LaDolcetta, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Minogue and Kelly Schmidt a nurse from Robert Wood Johnson Fitness Facility.

**ESTABLISHING QUORUM:** (Executive Committee)

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

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes were approved as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tori McMahon reported from the Statement of Accounts for January 16, 2008 through February 5, 2008. A beginning balance of \$10,768.25, receipts of \$871.24, disbursements of \$1417.01, and an ending balance of \$10,222.48. The report was filed for audit. (See copy of attached report.)

**Correspondence:** Tammy Rodriguez read a thank you note from Sharon Lenhardt for the get well wishes and flowers.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Special guest Kelly Schmidt gave a brief talk about childhood obesity and the programs that RWJ Fitness Center offers for families struggling with this issue.

**Budget and Finance** – Marianne thanked everyone who donated prizes and the many volunteers who helped to make Bingo Night a huge success. She indicated that thanks to the donations we were able to make many prizes. She requested that winners return any empty baskets they didn't wish to keep so they can be used for the next Bingo Night. Also, if you have baskets that you are interested in donating, please send them to school.

Marianne thanked Jodi for her excellent bingo calling, Kalyn for her awesome sponsor signs, Deb Conti for coming through with Bingo Cards, Cathy Stout for soliciting numerous donations for local businesses, Deb Hamm and Tammy Rodriguez for their beautiful basket wrappings, Michelle L and family for jumping in and helping out Thursday night and to the numerous other volunteers who helped out with this event.

She stated that to date we have raised approximately \$15,000 we need to raise an additional \$5,000 to meet our fundraising goals.

We are currently running our read-a-thon fundraiser. Each student will receive a gift certificate to the upcoming book fair for 50% of their pledge money. 20% of the total

pledge money will be used to purchase new books for our school library. 30% of the pledge money will go towards our fund-raising goals. There will be a book fair in conjunction with this event held on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Marianne announced the following scheduled fundraisers: Art fundraiser, super 50/50, Spring Flower Sale, Trenton Thunder 50/50 ticket sale, Wendy's Restaurant Fundraiser, and Box Tops and Marrazzo Receipts (Please send them to school with your child.)

**Hospitality** – Sue Fox circulated a sign up sheet for anyone who would like to bake for the Founders Day event. Jamie questioned whether she would like to use the Three-For-Me list but Sue thought it may be too late to contact them.

**Family Activities-** Cindy Mimmo reported that a flyer for Valentine bears was distributed that day. Each bear is .75 cents and comes with a note. She stated there are extra fliers in the office and payment/orders are due by Monday. May 2, 2008 is the Trenton Thunder game and 50/50 fundraiser.

A discussion followed about the benefit dinner for the teachers. Cindy stated that she would try to find a more reasonable alternative to the Hibernians which is \$25 per person. The members present felt this was too expensive for families.

**Founders Day** – Tammy reported that the invitations for everyone being honored have all been sent out. Rachel is working on the programs and the music has been chosen. Lastly, the gifts have all been purchased. The event will take place February 19, 2008.

**Health and Safety** – Julie sent around a petition for everyone to sign to show our support for making recess mandatory. A discussion followed and we would like to come up with a way to inform the entire school of our efforts and get them on board.

Julie also mentioned that we could do a Blood Drive at our school. The blood center will donate money to our school in different increments depending on how many volunteers we get. Our school could potentially receive \$250. We are considering doing the blood drive on April 24, 2008. At the next meeting she hopes to have a definite date.

**Special Treats** – Melissa reported that there will be a special treat day Friday, February 29. The children will be receiving corn muffins, fruit and juice. A flyer will go home with any child who may be a new student to give them the opportunity to participate.

**Reflections** – Rachel reported that the students who participated in Reflections will be having a pizza party on February 12. She thanked Mrs. Stevenson for contributing \$70 towards the cost of the pizza.

**Fifth Grade Activities** – Melissa Giori reported that the fifth grade students will be selling Bear Grams. She stated the yearbook committee is doing a great job and are on schedule. The fifth grade class will be having another car wash in May. Also, Patterson has been invited to attend the Founders Day Event to thank them for their support.

## **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.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nominating Committee** – Betsy reviewed the nominating process for the benefit of our members who have not been part of this process before and requested that everyone look over the names on the phone/email list and think about responses to the questions which will be posed between now and when you are contacted. We will be electing a President, First Vice President, VP of Budget and Finance and a Treasurer this year, so this is a big year.

Betsy requested a show of hands for anyone interested in serving on this committee. Jaime Rosica, Tammy Rodriguez, Julie McGuinness, Jennifer Haley and Rachel Sorrento volunteered to participate on this year's nominating committee. Debbie Conti is the alternate. The alternate is utilized in the event that a regular committee member is unable to fulfill her duties or in the event that a regular committee member is being considered for one of the positions being filled. Jaime raised her hand first and in accordance with our bylaws she will set the time and place for the first meeting.

**Local Bylaws Amendments** – Betsy reviewed the two amendments to the local unit bylaws passed at the convention and requested that everyone make the necessary corrections in the copy of the bylaws we have in our board packet. Corrections have already been made on the electronic version in preparation for distribution next September. On page 5 under Article V Membership and Dues, Section 9 (a) dues have to be sent to the NJPTA office a) on or before November 1<sup>st</sup>; b) on or before January 1<sup>st</sup>; c) on or before March 1<sup>st</sup> and d) on or before June 1<sup>st</sup>. The June 1<sup>st</sup> date is a revision. The other change is on page 7 Article VI Officers, Section 8 Nominees from the floor shall have been given .....the 20 should now be underlined and after that a section needs to be added in parentheses "(insert a number between 5 and 20)" NJPTA had previously required 20 days notice. Now they are giving each local the option of picking any number between 5 and 20.

**Formation of 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee** – Betsy reported this coming September, the 45<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten class will enter Alexander. Alexander PTA, therefore, is 45 years old come September. She asked if we want to plan any activities for this momentous occasion, the time to start planning is now. A sign up sheet was circulated for anyone interested.

**Standing Rules** – Betsy announced that copies of the revised standing rules are available at the table near the sign in sheet. These are effective immediately. Please be sure to get a copy.

### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

**Board Surveys** – Betsy reported that she has received a few surveys back and would like to encourage everyone to fill them out and return them as soon as possible so planning for next year can begin. Membership and School Fair committees need to be in place by June at the latest and Budget and Finance needs a skeleton committee by that time as well. Betsy turned the floor over to Mrs. Stevenson for the Principal’s report.

### **PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:**

Mrs. Stevenson asked Mrs. LaDolcetta to report to everyone on the new lap top cart. She stated that the teachers received training on how to use the new cart that Alexander received. The school was given a cart with 15 lap top computers that can be used by different classes. Mrs. LaDolcetta was the first to use it in her class; she stated that all of the teachers are very excited about this new technology for our classrooms. Mrs. LaDolcetta also thanked everyone for the huge contribution of soup cans for Souper Bowl. Jamie wanted to remind the teachers to use GoodSearch when using the laptops.

Mrs. Stevenson added that the Black History Assembly yesterday was great. She stated that report cards were distributed today. The Valentine treats will be given at 2:30 on February 14<sup>th</sup>. She added a few reminder dates: February 15<sup>th</sup> - Hamilton Dental visits, February 18<sup>th</sup> – No School, February 19<sup>th</sup>- Third Grade Trip and Founders Day. Lastly, conferences will be held the last week of February.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Betsy distributed recognition certificates as follows:

April Sette, Debbie Hamm, Ellen Iorio & Kathy Register – for our award winning Historical Yearbook, Jamie Rosica – for all the great ideas she brought to Kindergarten Registration.

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

*Debra Conti*

**Recording Secretary**