

**JAMES W. ALEXANDER PTA, INC,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
January 15, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Betsy Reetz called the meeting to order at 7:20pm and led the flag salute. She welcomed the teacher Mrs. Argese to the meeting.

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 December 4, 2007 through January 15, 2008. A beginning balance of \$11078.26, receipts of \$5015.21, disbursements of \$5325.22, and an ending balance of \$10768.25. The report was filed for audit. (See copy of attached report.)

Correspondence: Tammy Rodriguez read a Happy Holiday card from the second grade teachers. She also read a thank you from the Bargo family for holiday gifts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Arts in Education – Bev Braddock reported that the following students would be moving on in the Reflections process: Photography- EJ Skwara, Literature- Cassandra Perry, and Music- Isabelle Shin and David Krauss. Also, all of the students who participated in the Reflections program will be having a pizza party on February 12th.

Budget and Finance – Marianne Joralemon reported that Bingo Night is scheduled to occur on Friday night, February 1st. A sign up sheet for any one who would like to help out was circulated. Jodi volunteered to be the bingo caller. She stated that we applied for a 50/50 license for the bingo night. Letters were sent to several businesses in our area in hopes of having prizes donated for bingo night. Marianne asked for anyone to donate either items or baskets.

She reminded that we will collect any combination of 5 box tops, Marrazzo receipts, or Campbell's UPC Codes in exchange for a bingo booklet. Flyers will go home this week about Bingo Night. The next BoxTop submission date is 2/28.

Karin Casole is organizing our art fundraiser. The fundraiser will be done in connection with our art teacher. The art will be made into magnets and sent home with the students. There are a lot of items that the children's artwork can be placed on.

Cindy Devine is organizing our reading fundraiser which will occur in February. The reading fundraiser will run in connection with the Six Flags reading program.

The Super 50/50 is scheduled for May and we are trying to organize a Wendy's fundraiser in coordination with Field Day.

We received a check from our Red Robin Fundraiser for \$85.76, from Box Tops \$858.35 and a check from our CheeBurger CheeBurger fundraiser for \$132.73. Marianne stated that we have raised approximately \$14,000 this year! We need to raise \$20,000 to meet our budget.

Recognitions – Marianne Wherley reported that the four custodians would be receiving \$20 gift certificates to Shop Rite.

Family Activities – Cindy Mimmo thanked everyone for their support in helping with the Holiday Extravaganza. Nearly \$450 was raised between the extravaganza and the poinsettia sale.

Cindy stated that May 2nd will be our Trenton Thunder night and we are going to sell 50/50 again this year. She is also considering doing a cheese bread/cinnamon bread sale through Mastori's around Easter. She will have more information at the next meeting.

Fifth Grade Activities – Jodi Morgan reported that the yearbook committee is still missing pictures from 2nd and 4th grade. There are still Smencils for sale.

Jodi stated that there may be another car wash in May because the first one was so successful. Lastly, there will be no kiss-a-grams this year but in its place will be "beary special" deliveries. The students can purchase little bears with notes attached to give to their friends on Valentine's Day.

Founders Day – Jodi Morgan reported that a flyer will be going home inviting everyone to the February 19th Founders Day Celebration. Rachel did the invitations for the guests who will be honored. Jodi stated that she received some teacher input about the honorees.

Kindergarten Registration – Jamie thanked everyone on the committee for all their help. There were over 40 families who came to register for Kindergarten. She stated that the Alexander goods did not sell well but she is hoping to bring them back for the April 14th orientation which will be held from 9:30-10:30.

Educational Programs – Rachel Sorrento reported that the Oprah Dance Club will be visiting February 4th at 10am. She stated that the children seemed to enjoy the math show but was unsure about the teacher's opinion.

Debra Conti brought up the issue of sending home fliers for each event. It seems to be a waste of paper. Everyone seemed to be in agreement. Betsy stated that it would be

acceptable to put the assemblies on the school calendar and forego the notes sent home before each event.

Historical Yearbook- Debbie Hamm asked that anyone with pictures of recent events please submit them for the historical yearbook. She would also like any fliers that are available to be e-mailed to the committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Life Member Nominating Committee – Betsy stated that development of criteria for this award remains pending. For the benefit of new members, Betsy gave she is talking about. She went on to say that every year Alexander has a membership drive and everyone in the Alexander community is given the opportunity to join our PTA for a year. The NJPTA offers a life membership in that organization which can be purchased by a local unit and awarded to a local unit. At Alexander, staff members with 25 years of service are awarded a NJPTA life membership and our PTA pays for them to be an Alexander PTA member for life. We have awarded thirteen life memberships in this PTAs nearly 45 year history, two of whom were awarded to past principals and two of whom were awarded to past presidents. The last one awarded to someone other than a staff member was in 1999. It is up to the individual local to determine their criteria for awarding a life membership and we currently don't have any, which may explain why we haven't awarded many. Betsy was encouraged by the discussion that took place at the county council Founders Day dinner. She asked for volunteers interested enough in getting this moving to form a committee whose purpose it would be to develop criteria?

NEW BUSINESS:

Jodi Morgan would like to have a pasta dinner to benefit the teachers. She would like it to be a fundraiser to purchase an item for the teachers to enhance the teaching. It would not be a PTA sponsored event. Jodi stated that LaVilla would be willing to give us a good price. Discussion followed and people seemed to respond well. Jodi will have more details at the next meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Nominating Committee – Betsy reminded everyone that we will be forming a nominating committee at the next executive board meeting.

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mrs. Stevenson started by listing some important upcoming dates. They are as follows:
April 18th –Grandparent's Day 9:30-10:30 (2 per child)
May 1st- Field Day (make-up May 15)

Mrs. Stevenson announced the test dates and asked that everyone be sure to have students well rested. She stated that teachers are preparing the students. All testing will take place in the morning.

The dates are as follows:

March 3 rd -March 6 th	Second Grade Terra Nova (3/10-3/14 make-up)
March 10 th -March 12 th	Third Grade NJ ASK (3/17-3/21 make-up)
March 10 th -March 14 th	Fourth Grade NJ ASK4 (3/17-3/21 make-up)
May 5 th -May 8 th	Fifth Grade NJ ASK5 (5/12 make-up)

Mrs. Stevenson thanked everyone for the generous coat and toy drive. There were over 200 toys collected. Alexander families as well as Women's Space were helped through our efforts.

She is hoping for no snow during January and February. Marianne asked if it were possible to get the phone link system that Reynolds Middle School has. She responded that it is an extremely expensive system and hopefully in the future we may get it. Mrs. Stevenson stated that the filter work is going to be completed on Friday and should be cleaned up shortly thereafter.

A discussion about the arrival procedures took place. Mrs. Stevenson stated that students can arrive no earlier than 8:45am and at that time they are permitted to enter their classroom at the appropriate doors. Students may only enter the front door on a day with either ice or snow. There is no longer any teacher supervision on the outside in the morning. The students are supervised in their classroom once they have entered the building.

GOOD OF THE ORDER OF ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PTA Recognition Certificates – Betsy stated that we have not awarded recognition certificates at the last two meetings. Please email her with any nominations and we'll catch up next month.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Debra Conti

Recording Secretary