

JAMES W. ALEXANDER PTA, INC.
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
May 6, 2008

CALL TO ORDER:

President Betsy Reetz called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm and led the flag salute. She welcomed teacher representatives: Miss Szabo, Mrs. Camilleri, Mrs. Bertothy, and Mrs. Palloti.

Betsy welcomed special guest; Kristie Casole, who thanked everyone for their book donations. She stated that she would be collecting books until May 16th.

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 April 2, 2008 through May 6, 2008. A beginning balance of \$10,669.91, receipts of \$10,822.94, disbursements of \$4,355.54, and an ending balance of \$17,137.31. The report was filed for audit. (See copy of attached report.)

Correspondence: Tammy Rodriguez read thank you notes from the third grade teachers for the Reach for the Stars program. Thank you notes from Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Truelove, Mrs. Oberweiss and Mrs. LaDolcetta were also read. Lastly, Tammy read a thank you from Mrs. Fiorello for the Founders Day recognition.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Family Activities- Betsy reported for Cindy Mimmo that Field Day was held April 30, 2008. The Trenton Thunder night was a big success; 114 tickets were sold and we profited \$200.00 from the sale of 50/50s at the game. Lastly, she stated that the A&M fundraiser was held on May 3 and 4. There was no profit amount as of the meeting.

Fifth Grade Activities- Melissa Giori reported that everything is coming together as the school year winds down. She thanked: Roberta Ridge for all her work on the yearbook, Maribeth Regan for her work on the CD/DVD cover and bags, and Rachel Sorrento for creating our DVD. Melissa stated that everyone is working very hard to make this one of the best 5th grade celebrations. She added that the car wash is scheduled this Saturday 10 – 2 at Patterson Chevrolet, and they will be selling Smencils outside after school later this month.

Grandparents' Day- Melissa stated that Grandparents Day took place on April 18th and was a great success. She thanked all the volunteers who showed up early to set up our delicious refreshments, greet our grandparents, and stayed behind to clean up as well. Everyone enjoyed the morning.

Health Safety & Environment – Julie reported that the recess bill has been approved to go to Senate to be voted on. She was proud to say that the students wrote over 200 letters to Senator Bill Baroni.

Julie said that there were 21 people who showed up to donate blood; of those 17 were able to donate. She urged everyone to still donate and use our school to get enough people for a donation from our blood drive. Family Fun night is scheduled for May 29 from 6-8pm. Tickets will be sent out to students on a first come first served basis to limit the amount of people in the gym.

Historical Yearbook- Kathy Register reported that the committee has met and is working on the book. She asked that anyone who has pictures or letters that were sent out to please e-mail them to Debbie Hamm to be placed in the book.

Kindergarten Registration- Jamie reported that the Kindergarten orientation on April 14th went very well. There were a few crying children but Jamie commented that there were some great questions from the parents. She was happy to announce that she did not use any of her budget because the Three-For-Me program donated all of the baked goods and drinks.

Jamie asked what the committee thought about pennants for the incoming kindergarten class. A discussion followed. Folders were discussed but it seemed to be that everyone felt chunky pencils would be a better choice. Jamie will look into where to purchase the item.

Teacher Appreciation- Linda reported that the teachers will be receiving many goodies throughout the week. Monday was a take home ziti dinner, Tuesday was a popcorn treat, Wednesday is a luncheon, Thursday is a surprise treat and Friday will be a breakfast.

Budget and Finance- Marianne reported that she is in the process of sending home the Great Adventure Reading tickets which she received last week. She requested that if we know someone who participated, but did not receive a ticket, to please let her know. She thanked Cindy Mimmo for organizing our Trenton Thunder night. It was a good time and we even had fun selling the 50/50 tickets. Cindy did an amazing job setting that up for us. She also thanked Cindy for setting up the A&M Fundraiser.

Marianne thanked Jodi for her endless dedication to our PTA. She has always been there when we are in need of a volunteer. She mentioned that last week was National Volunteers Week and she noted that we have some of the most incredible volunteers right here in this organization.

Marianne stated that to date we have raised \$ 20,600; our goal was to raise \$20,000. She was proud to say we have exceeded our fundraising goal by \$ 600. Marianne made a motion that we set aside \$600 of the excess and treat the students to a year-end slice of pizza. She stated that this motion will need to be voted on by the General Membership as the amount is in excess of \$250. She proposed the idea of making this motion at the General Membership meeting on May 13th. Melissa Giori made a motion to treat the students to pizza at the end of the year. The motion was seconded by Linda Ackerson and passed unanimously.

The Super 50/50 tickets and ticket stubs are due back on Thursday, May 8th. Marianne noted that many of us have already returned them. So far we have sold over \$ 2,240 in tickets which means first prize is currently \$ 560, second prize is currently \$336 and third prize is currently \$ 224. As of last night, there were 254 books of tickets still outstanding. If half the outstanding tickets are sold, first prize will be in excess of \$1,000 second prize will be in excess of \$600 and third prize will be in excess of \$400 then our total funds raised net of expenses would be in excess of \$23,000 including estimated proceeds from the A&M Fundraiser. If this is an accurate projection we will have an ending balance in excess of \$10,000 (after buying year end pizza). Marianne strongly recommended that we carry over this amount in the event we struggle to meet our budget in future years. She stated that our ending balance is something that we can all be very proud of.

Reach for the Stars- Cindy Devine reported that the Dance party for the Reach for the Stars program will be held May22nd. Radio Disney DJ will do the music for a fee of \$250. Cindy made a motion that the PTA pay for this. Kelly Sterns made the motion to pay for a DJ for the Reach for the Stars dance party. The motion was seconded by Kalyn Vizzoni and passed unanimously.

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.

Committee Assignments – Betsy stated that work will begin shortly on the development of the committee roster for the 2008-2009 school year. If you have not yet returned your committee survey, you should have received an email from her over the weekend requesting that you do so.

NEW BUSINESS:

Revisions to Bylaws – Betsy stated that she recently became aware that our bylaws are not quite up to snuff. The NJPTA Guidelines for Nominations states that “The committee’s responsibility is to nominate the best-qualified candidate for each office.” Other than some very general qualifications, for example “must be a member of the PTA” and “must subscribe to the ideals of PTA” that’s all this document says. Hidden in a reference distributed by NJPTA called the “One Stop Reference” is a section about the nominating process, wherein it indicates that the individual local should develop criteria identifying qualifications for each officer position. Once determined, the criteria will need to be added to Article VI Section 4 where the basic qualifications are identified. Additionally, we should also have specific criteria & qualifications for the composition of the Nominating Committee, which will need to be added to Article VI Section 8 (a) once determined. A committee will need to be formed to develop criteria for a starting point. Betsy asked that if anyone is interested in participating on the committee, please communicate that to her via email.

FY2006 Taxes – Betsy reported that approximately three weeks ago, she pulled an envelope out of the PTA mailbox with the return address of the Internal Revenue Service. Our taxes for the fiscal year July 1 2006 through June 30 2007 were not filed by the deadline mandated by the tax code. Absent the filing of a request for an extension, the correspondence advised that the IRS was assessing a penalty of \$1500 for this infraction. Marianne Joralemon drafted a letter of appeal which was submitted via fax on April 26th. As soon as we receive a response, Betsy will let us know.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Unit Achievement Awards – According to one of the recent issues of National PTA's local leader news, 339 PTAs in the United States were the recipients of unit achievement awards. The recipients are posted on the National PTA website. There were 10 in the state of NJ, three in Mercer County, two in Hamilton Township. Alexander PTA was an award recipient for the second year in a row.

Clothing Bins at Acme – Betsy stated that it appears that she has been remiss in her duties, because it was brought to her attention since the last meeting that not everyone is aware of the clothing collection bins in the Acme parking lot. The clothing put into these bins translates into a donation to the Hamilton Township PTA Committee, who uses the proceeds to fund scholarships awarded to graduating seniors at the three township high schools.

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mrs. Stevenson started off by saying that the 5th grade testing is going well. Students are commenting that the tests are easy. She is hoping that this will show in the scores.

She stated that Career Day will be held Friday, May 30th. She has many volunteers scheduled. The afternoon will consist of outdoor activities such as karate, dance and many others. She asked for volunteers to come in and cut/serve oranges and water on that day. She stated that the event will be informative and fun.

Mrs. Stevenson also spoke about Character Education. The month of May is recognized for citizenship and responsibility. The students are working on activities in the classroom on how to be a good citizen at school and at home. She went on to say that the money raised for Gus is a great way for our students to develop character. She thanked the school community for raising over \$10,000 for Gus. The money raised will be presented to Gus during an assembly on May 13th.

Mrs. Stevenson said the playground equipment that was removed should be replaced by September. The old equipment was not up to the new code.

Lastly, she reported that the Gifted and Talented program is being renamed. It is now the ALPS program. She stated the requirements to be in the program will also be changed. The test scores will need to be higher.

GOOD OF THE ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Marianne Joralemon took the floor and announced that she was resigning from the Alexander Executive Board effective May 14th. She stated that if anyone needs her help, please feel free to email her and she will help out whenever possible and thanked everyone for the support given to her over the past four years. She also thanked Mrs. Stevenson who voluntarily makes monetary contributions to our PTA thus decreasing the amount of money we need to raise to meet our budget. She also thanked Betsy for her continued support and expressed appreciation for all that she has done for our PTA.

ADJOURNMENT:

Betsy distributed a recognition certificate to Cindy Devine for her Reach for the Stars fundraiser.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

Debra Conti

Recording Secretary