

John Brown Francis Elementary School

PTA Minutes for Tuesday, September 15, 2009

In attendance was: Michele Cusick, Melissa Piscione, Elizabeth Ami, Jackie Harris-Connor, Joan Mullin, Nancy Gaidola, Susan Maloney, Kristen VanLuinin, Pam Dillon, Lisa Kiernan, Karen Ramsden, Erin Taylor, Phyllis Grivisonno, Tracey Wysor, Roslyn Dolber, Laura Caravalo, Pat Burton, Patricia Bastia, Michelle Gayman, Kimberly Olson, Tara DeMelo, Michelle Corley, Laura Testa, Kim Doyle, Becky Carter, Sheila Maguire, Liz O'Connor, Sandra Tavitian, Kathy McCarthy, Michael Duffie, Frank Ricci, Laura Tuscani and Christine Pollard.

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The Co-Presidents had everyone who was present introduce themselves.

The Co-Presidents asked for and was given approval of the May 19, 2009 PTA minutes.

Budget for 2009-2010 was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Checking Account: \$4,875.27
Savings Account: \$4,168.66

Report of Standing Committees:

After School Programs: Susan Maloney reported that as of September 15, 2009 the only after school program that was scheduled is gymnastics. No others are scheduled but some ideas are in the works for more activities. Susan is looking for people to help out with the program.

Membership: Tara DeMelo reported that with membership to the PTA comes benefits. She would like people to join and refer to the national website for those benefits.

Fundraising: Melissa Piscione reported that she is handling fundraising as of September 15, 2009 and is looking for someone to take over fundraising for her because of time constraints. Melissa also reported that our first fundraiser will be the sale of soy-based candles and will possibly begin the week of September 21, 2009. (45% of proceeds benefits JBF PTA) Another fundraiser is scheduled for Veteran's Day November, 11, 2009 and that will be held at Pizzeria Uno. (20% of proceeds go to JBF PTA) Melissa floated the possibility of using supermarket rewards cards to earn money for the PTA.

Cultural Arts: No chairperson as of September 15, 2009.

RIF: Pam Dillon will be chairperson for the academic year 2009-2010. Disbursement dates to be announced.

Book Fair: Chairperson is needed for academic year 2009-2010. The position was held by Diana Russo and although she is not chairperson this year she is willing to assist the incoming chairperson with details of the position. The date for the first book fair to be held may be December 3, 2009. The spring book fair will be announced at a later time.

Family Events: Family Events is in need of a chairperson. The PTA would like to have the Harvest Festival on October 30, 2009. Michele Cusick discussed the possibility of having a pumpkin spectacular on a small scale at JBF. Both Michele and Melissa are looking for more ideas for that night.

VOWS: Liz Ami (Candela) is coordinator for the academic year 2009-2010 and is seeking volunteers for various areas. She asked that people refer to the VOWS website for more information. Liz also gave a detailed report as to the fundamental workings of the VOWS organization.

Reflections: Pat Burton explained how Reflections works and what a benefit it is to children. Pat will be Chairperson for the academic year 2009-2010 and she would like some volunteers to help with the program. She reported that the theme for this years Reflections are “Beauty Is...”

Box Tops: Kim Doyle will be chairperson for academic year 2009-2010. Kim is looking for volunteers to help organize and collect box tops from the students. She mentioned a possibility of rewarding the class or grade that turns in the most box tops. Kim also directed parents to go the Box Tops for Education website.

6th Grade Committee: Tara DeMelo explained the needs of the committee and was looking for someone to help with the yearbook.

Chance to Dance: Michele Corley reported that as of September 15, 2009 Chance to Dance has approximately 17 children signed up and needs at least 23 children for the program to pay for itself. Michele also mentioned that it will begin in October and carry on through May. Chance to Dance is open to all students between 3rd and 6th grade.

Teachers Report: Mrs. Tavitian reported there will be a food drive to benefit a local pantry and that for every can of food donated from the JBF family Mr. Alan Shawn Feinstein will donate a dollar to our school.

Principal's Report: Mr. Ricci welcomed our new 6th grade teacher Miss Pinto and complimented Tony on his outstanding custodial work preparing the school to be opened. Enrollment is down from last year's number. Open house will be held on September 22, 2009. Mr. Ricci made it clear that academic year 2009-2010 is going to be difficult budget wise as funds are limited for supplies.

JB F PTA Website: Laura Testa is the creator of the website and would like to hear any ideas people may have for it. The website has everything a parent may need when looking for contacts and information regarding upcoming JB F events, school committee meetings, parent advisory committee meetings and more.

Next PTA meeting is on October 13, 2009. The Harvest Festival as well as other fundraising matters will be discussed.

Meeting for September 15, 2009 was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.