

The North Stratfield Parent Teacher Association
Putting Green Road, Fairfield, CT. 06825

PTA Meeting Minutes 10/13/11

Call to Order at 7:40 p.m.

President's Remarks (Terri Epstein):

- A lot of events coming up, Halloween party, pancake breakfast

President Elect's Remarks (Chrissy Sforza):

- Yarn activity as team building activity

Approval of Minutes (Jen Vilenski):

- Epstein- if there are no objections, minutes for 9/20/11 are approved as rendered

Correspondence (Reini Knorr):

- Letter from Blum, O'Sullivan, Harris, Lowe, Healey, Coords, Kane, Cooper, Barker thanking for \$50 - \$ 100 gifts for classes

Principal's Remarks (Debbie Jackson):

- Superintendent doing something new with administrative group. All admins in town are going through FWHS first for instructional rounds, observing instruction in classes, looking at ways to improve instruction. Will go into other schools in future.
- Walter Wakeman, k - 5 math coordinator, will be at future PTA meeting, as well as science coordinator.

Faculty Update (Franklyn Maclean):

- Thank you on behalf of staff for generosity to teacher accounts for bookfair
- Nov 8th, pd day for staff, word skills and math skills work

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report (Stephanie Johnson, Sue Ransden):

- Updated budget (see attached)
- 1/3 of way through fundraising in 2nd month of school, looking good
- Walkathon didn't raise half as much as expected, only \$6378 instead of \$15,000
- Vilenski- should budget on walkathon be changed for next year?
- Fink- walkathon committee recommends it may be cancelled
- Patten- wrapping paper brought in \$9000, more \$ than walkathon
- Box tops until November 1st

Lori Mangano, membership chair:

- 100% teacher participation
- 54% family participation, shooting for 100%
- Most money from membership goes to school, rest for PTA

1st Vice President, Board of Education (Marc Patten, Eric Newman):

- BOE meeting before election
- Go out and vote
- Body that decides on budget and programs for education
- Rare for BOE to return money left over to town, \$32,000 returned to town, several hundred thousand \$ not used for special Ed returned to town, based on earlier estimate of how much state will reimburse
- 750 kids graduating from both high schools this year, graduating classes expected to grow to 950 with this year's current 5th grade, trying to put FLHS as next big building project, because there is land to build on

2nd Vice President, Programs/Volunteers (Shelly Llewellyn, Kathleen Parker):

- Directory came home today
- Spirit wear doing well, design your own spirit wear available online now
- Art in classroom could use more volunteers
- Ratner- if room mothers didn't get email about need for volunteers, then it isn't needed for that room
- Mangano- is there description about it in Friday flash or on site to inform those who might volunteer?
- Ransden- in welcome booklet, will go online?

3rd Vice President, Ways and Means (Jean Gallati, Linda Grace, Pamela Fink):

- Fink- Family photo big success, opened another day on 10/30, already full. Maybe another day in spring?
- Halloween party- still need volunteers
- Parker- why is it on Saturday, can it go back to Friday? Answered- setup needs, well received last year as Saturday
- Auction- 3/24, will need volunteers and retail fundraising chair, will give support
- Money from stop and shop \$320, able to send Maclean, Ramstedt, and Gillen to CES workshop with that money
- Daily Fairfield offers promotion where you can vote to earn \$\$ for school
- Patten and Epstein - legal to put it in PTA flash? Kozzeraki- can room moms send it out?
- Patten- pancake breakfast 11/19, needing volunteers, need arts and crafts volunteers, will take any scouts

PTA Council (Leann Ratner, Rafael Sachakov):

- Mike Tetrau came and spoke, all town body working together
- Superintendent Dr. Title spoke about bus ride length issue at Tomlinson, working on that
- Projections show student increase of 750, but 800 incoming kindergartners, most districts in decline, but Fairfield on rise
- Title encouraging all to go on his blog
- Nominations for community leader who has impact on town, Alice B. McGrath award
- Community service grants for teacher programs connected with other schools/ community service
- Tim Kerry spoke on record no redistricting on table for this year

Wellness Coalition (Michelle McCabe, Aimee O'Brien, Stacey Sullivan, Miranda Vincent, Rafael Sachakov):

- Whole foods after school workshop on 10/12 went well, NSS students well versed in vegetables, thank you to Jackson, parents and teachers for support
- 10/24 iron chef fundraiser at FWHS anywhere from 4 - 7pm, show up, vote, winning food will be on future menu
- Knorr- suggest images on food menu, because students don't know all food items by name
- Sachakov- food menus for current month of October haven't been posted on school site?
- Aimee O'Brien- Fairfield minuteman article on NSS garden, whiteboard in front entryway of NSS, with information about veggie pledge, NSS garden

AGENDA ITEMS:

- Fairfield garden grant, Ann Tack-Eckel, district wide garden grant. Every teacher in each elementary school received one book related to their grade level curriculum, connected to outdoor classroom activities and garden. Books chosen by curriculum leaders Gary Rosato and Anna Cutai- Leonard.
- Vilenski- Have Rosato and Cutai-Leonard committed to integrate the garden content into curriculum? A book in each classroom related to garden content is nice, but not as valuable to teachers without district support of integration of garden content-related activities into elementary curriculum.

Motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.