

Fremont PTA Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 3, 2011

In Attendance – Sue Hinckley, Jodi Donahue, Michelle Nhari, Antje McKee-Courcy, Tammy Bond, Jennifer Brown, Shawn Perreault, Cathy Herrmann, Camilla Fraize

January's Minutes were approved

Treasurer's Report was approved – The total Deposits were \$6,842.01 (Lowe's Grant, BoxTops, Gift Card Program, Meadow Farms on-line order profit), Total expenses were \$2,554.55 (Gift Card Program, Ball in the House deposit).

Mini Grants – There were three to consider:

- Mr. Herrmann, 7th/8th grade science is requesting \$100.00 to purchase science toys from the Museum of Science gift shop during his annual class trip. He usually buys items out of his own pocket, but is looking for assistance this year. The trip is tomorrow though! Cathy Herrmann is going on the trip with the class and will notify Mr. Herrmann that the mini grant was approved as a reimbursement pending receipts and under the agreement that all items purchased would stay in the classroom.
- Kathy Whitehouse is requesting \$232.00 to purchase 8 RCA 2GB MP3 players at \$29.00 each for 4th grade classrooms. The MP3 players would enable reading materials to be downloaded so reading challenged students would be able to listen to the same materials their peers are reading and would enable them to participate in class discussion and the new 4th grade book club. Often reading challenged students don't get to benefit from reading grade level materials. Public libraries offer downloadable versions of popular books for kids for free. This mini grant was approved.
- Mrs. Gobeil (3rd grade) was inquiring as to the possibility of a request and if it is something allowed will do more research as to price. She wonders if a mini grant could be used to purchase a TV, and Blu-Ray/DVD player that could be used to enhance the fairy tales portion of the 3rd grade curriculum. She would keep the total to the \$250.00 limit. The membership decided that more information was needed before a decision could be made. Concerns were - Why not use the current TV/DVD players in school? Why can't a non movie option be used? Why a Blu-Ray player? They are quite expensive and most thought she wouldn't be able to buy both a TV and Blu-Ray player for the \$250.00 limit.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education – We have received the check! Jen is still working on setting up a date with the managers from Lowes that will be working with us in to Ellis for the announcement of the grant and a tour of the greenhouse. She's hoping to set the date for the week of the 14th, and the students will get to the planning stages shortly thereafter.

Spring Fundraiser – Yankee Candles are all set, the brochures (570 were ordered) will arrive by March 15th and the fundraiser will run March 21st – April 1st. The forms are due to the company by April 6th the latest.

Cake Walk – The gym has been approved for March 26th, so the date is set. It will run very similar to last year; set up will happen in the morning. All forms are still useable from last year, dates just need to be adjusted. The event will be announced in the Town Newsletter, the PTA Newsletter, and in local newspapers.

After School Programs – Shawn talked to Dawn Lewis about the possibility of bringing in one/a few of the programs we had investigated as artist in residence programs as after school programs instead. She thought it would be a great idea but wanted us to be sure to check with other current programs (Science/Literacy Club, Brownies) to be sure there are no conflicts in time/space. Shawn suggested that it might be best to separate the groups into 1st/2nd, and 3rd/4th and run them opposite of their scheduled Literacy/Science Club days. The programs being considered are; Mad Science, Curious Creatures, Boston Museum of Science Traveling program, Granite State Zoo, and the Storytellers (this one was thought to be good for the younger kids when they return half day from Field Day). It was decided to send out a flyer as a feeler to see what parents/students would be interested in. It was also mentioned that should the individual cost per program become too expensive that the PTA might be able to pitch in to keep cost affordable to parents, so the cost would not exceed \$10.00.

Spring Book Fair – The scheduled dates are April 14th – April 22nd per Scholastic, but Tammy has to touch base with Jodi Antoine to solidify the actual dates. This will again be the buy one get one free sale, Tammy will have more details next month.

Field Day – The date this year is set for June 17th with a rain date of June 20th. Cathy will be setting up a meeting soon, and will be looking for an elementary games coordinator this year.

Artist in Residence – Ball in the House has been secured for March 10th. They will do two 50 minute presentations, one for the middle school (5-8) at 9am and the other for K-4th at 1pm. We will pay for their lunch, Fremont Pizzeria was suggested, and will supply water through the kitchen. We decided against a family night presentation due to venue concerns. We'll see how it goes over this year and maybe we can bring them back next year and consider an evening performance. Jen mentioned that we could apply for certain grants that would cover ½ of the cost of the public performance venue cost. It was also mentioned that Target offers after school enrichment grants that could be looked into.

Other Business:

- Jodi Antoine has secured the King Arthur bread baking program for the 4-8th graders and the presentation will take place on February 10th at 8am. The flour should have arrived today, and the ovens should come tomorrow. This program teaches the students how to bake a loaf of bread, and then sends them home with the ingredients to go home and bake two loaves; one to keep and one to donate to a food pantry.

- Shawn reported that there are forms available should anyone want to nominate any PTA member for various awards, such as the Gold Seal Achievement, Unit of the Year, PTA partnership award (for a school administrator or staff member that goes over and above), NH PTA member of the year, Elementary School Volunteer award, Middle School Volunteer award, and PTA administrator award. Contact Shawn if you would need the forms.
- The 2010/2011 NH PTA Reflections Exhibit will be held Monday March 14th 2011 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Gilbert H. Hood Middle School in Derry, NH.
- Call for Resolutions – There was an e-mail vote regarding the PTA providing babysitting for the Saturday February 5th School Deliberative Session. This was approved with 28 yes – 0 no votes. Cathy Herrmann has secured 6 students whom we will pay \$30.00 for the day.
- The next meeting will be held Thursday March 3rd at 7pm in the Fremont Public Library.