

## Fremont PTA Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 6, 2011

**In Attendance** – Bridget Paine, Sue Hinckley, Jodi Donahue, Tammy Bond, Antje McKee-Courcy, Jennifer Rydeen, Jennifer Brown, Shawn Perreault, Camilla Fraize.

**December's minutes** were approved.

**Treasurer's report** was approved. The To Your Art's Content newsletter brought in \$185.00, and t-shirts sold at the book fair brought in \$135.00. It was additionally voted to move 1200.00 from received Box Tops money to Mini Grants to replenish the Mini Grant Fund back to \$1500.00.

**Gift Card Program** – We received a lot of good feedback on this program, and will definitely do again! It was set up and carried out very quickly this time, due to just learning of its existence at the Regional Convention in November, but we did make \$85.45! It was decided to maybe do orders twice a year, probably in the spring and at Thanksgiving time. We plan to add more vendors, possibly some supermarkets, to be sure it is made clear that the PTA does profit from the program, and will definitely plan to set up pick up times again so orders don't have to go home with kids as that worked well this time around.

**Box Tops** – Breeda reported to Shawn that we have received a check for \$1239.70 which she hoped to designate to Mini Grants (this was approved as noted in the Treasurer's report). The Hannaford Helps Schools money will come in sometime before April; thanks to Antje for handling those collections this time around. Breeda also wanted to bring to everyone's attention the opportunity to earn 500 – 50,000 bonus BoxTops (which equates to \$50 - \$5000.00). Each household can enter to win by filling out entry slips that were provided at the meeting. The BoxTops bears were scheduled to go to winning classrooms on Friday; 1<sup>st</sup> grade winners were Mrs. Coyle's class and Mrs. Dobson's class; 2<sup>nd</sup> grade winners were Mrs. Normandin's class and Mrs. South's class.

**Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant** – We have received one of the \$5000.00 grants to improve our school's greenhouse, and will have more information to follow at the next meeting. Jen Rydeen has met with Mr. Herrmann who reports that the next RTI group will be designing a sustainable climate controlled greenhouse with the grant. The funds will help pay for solar panels and fans among other things and will be a valuable lesson to students in learning about carbon footprints, sustainability, marketing and sales as they will be able to continue to grow vegetables into the winter; they are hoping to be able to sell vegetables to the public. We should, sometime before the 28<sup>th</sup>, receive supplies to have a press release of this information including banners, and a check and hope to invite the newspaper to the actual presentation of the grant to the school. We were one of 1000 schools to receive a grant!

**Possible After School Programs** – Shawn brought forth the possibility to bring some after school enrichment programs to the town that would be appropriate for ages 6-12. These programs would be fee based, probably between \$7.00 and \$15.00; some would be one class, others a couple weeks long.

This would not be the same as an Artist in Residence as it would not necessarily be for the entire school; it would be an elective determined by the parents. This item was tabled until Dawn Lewis could be consulted.

**The Giving Tree** – This was originally a PTA project with Cathy Arsenault, which she took with her and has been handling it for some time. When she applies for the grants, she uses the PTA's financial info. This will be her last year handling the project; a local church will be taking it over. The Giving Tree under the PTA will be dissolved.

**Father/Daughter Dance** – We haven't heard from the usual organizers; Shawn will try to contact them and see if they want to head a committee to plan this event again this year.

**Mother/Son Night** – Shawn doesn't know if bowling is going to work out as well as she had hoped. Timing, and the inability to supply our own food to keep the event affordable wasn't looking hopeful for Leo's of Amesbury or of Park Lanes. It was decided to look out other options; different bowling lanes or mini golfing perhaps? It was also mentioned that we may want to think about a family social where whole families could get together; maybe replace the Welcome Back Luncheon we normally hold for teachers in August (since there is already so much packed into that week anyways) and host a Welcome Back BBQ for everyone like the school did a couple years ago.

**Artist in Residence** – Shawn brought forward a couple ideas for Artist in Residence programs:

- Ball in the House – a group of male musicians who teach how to make music without instruments. They sing entirely a cappella. They have January, March and May dates available, and in addition to the school presentations offer an evening performance. The thought is that we could sell tickets to offset the cost of the program. The only drawback to this would be the need for a venue as the school is entirely too small to host such an event.
- Storyteller – many subjects can be covered, and can cater to Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The cost is \$525.00 for 1 performance and \$300.00 for each extra same day performance; fees do include travel..
- Critter Shows – Animal sciences
- Boston Museum of Science traveling program offers many different subjects.

We have about \$5500.00 to play with. The consensus was to check out Ball in the House and see what can be arranged. The Critter Shows and the Boston MOS programs were thought to be great ideas for the possible after school programs.

**Other Business –**

**Cake Walk** – Jenn is hoping for the last Saturday of March (the 26<sup>th</sup>). She suggested maybe renting some games this year; Grand Rental Station in Plaistow has carnival type games that would be great. We have a bunch of donated McDonald's Happy Meal toys to use for the fishing game.

**Spring Fundraiser** – The consensus was to go again with the Yankee Candle fundraiser as it always does well. The dates were decided to be the last two weeks in March.

**The Spring Book Fair** begins April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Our next meeting** will be held Thursday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7pm in the Fremont Public Library's Community Room.