

Fremont PTA Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 3, 2011

In Attendance – Shawn Perreault, Jennifer Brown, Jennifer Rydeen, Julie Rowland, Tammy Bond, Sue Hinckley, Cathy Herrmann, Bridget Paine, Camilla Fraize

February's Minutes were approved

Treasurer's Report was approved – The total Deposits were \$32.00 (babysitting donations), Total expenses were \$2,540.54 (6th, 7th, 8th Meadow Farms Profits, babysitting and snacks for Delib. Session, Mini Grants).

Mini Grants – There were four to consider:

- Mrs. Gobeil made a request last month that the membership asked for more information before considering. Her request was for a TV, and BluRay/DVD player for use during the fairy tales portion of the 3rd grade curriculum. The Mini-Grant came back to the table and the consensus was that there already seems to be quite a bit of media equipment in the school for classroom use, and there was question why that equipment couldn't be used. There was also question that the equipment she was requesting could be purchased for the \$250.00 Mini-Grant limit. This Mini-Grant was declined, but it was noted that if there is a pressing media issue in the school, the PTA would really like to know as we could look into the need, and try to find a solution.
- Mr. Herrmann made a request in replace of his previous request from last month (science "toys" from the Museum of Science trip). He is instead requesting \$99.00 for a 1 year subscription for a program to develop smart phone applications. He will use this program during his Gifted and Talented lunch group, and states that it will provide sustainable funding to teach students about life technology. This was approved.
- Mrs. Normandin is requesting \$80.00 to buy soap containers for her classroom's everyday math cards (40 containers at approx. \$2.00) to keep them organized and save time during class (no time wasted straightening and organizing the cards). It was requested that she do a little research to find out the actual cost and place she will purchase them and get back to us. If she gets back to us prior to the next meeting, an e-mail vote will be conducted for approval.
- Mrs. Eichen is requesting \$214.75 for materials to enhance fluency, increase level of comprehension, vocabulary skills and daily writing skills for 3rd grade students. The materials are; Building Fluency 1-3 (\$49.95), Building Fluency 4-6 (\$49.95), Word Web Activity Kit (\$39.95), Focus on Reading (\$34.95), Report Writing (\$39.95), shipping is free on orders over \$99.00. This was approved.

Lowes Toolbox for Education Grant – Jen had a meeting with the managers of Lowes, the principals, and Mr. Herrmann’s class and reported that the students had their own design pitches, and there was a tour of the greenhouse conducted. She said that they have big plans for the greenhouse and would like to be able to provide veggies for the school lunches, and be able to sell plants to the community. They will conduct “field trips” to the greenhouse for the younger grades, and these younger kids are also helping out by starting seeds in the classroom for the greenhouse (this is separate from the grant money). The press was at the meeting and there should be a front page article in the Carriage Towne news. The class requested \$500.00 to start testing their ideas on heating and cooling. They have been given 2 weeks to give any change and turn in receipts.

Spring Fundraiser – The packets are due to come in the week of the 15th, and the fundraiser will run from the 15th through April 1st, orders are due back to company no later than April 6th to guarantee Mother’s Day delivery.

Cake Walk – Jenn reports that she has already received some registration forms. She has advertised in the Town Newsletter, and will be in the Carriage Towne News, and channel 22 as well. She has been in contact with 2 Timberlane Juniors needing some Community Service credits who will be helping with set up and clean up. All in all, plans are coming along well!

After School Programs – Feelers have been sent out and lots have been coming back with very positive feedback! It looks like Fridays will be the day that works best schedule wise. More formal sign-ups will come but it looks like there is enough interest to bring in all the programs! There was still a question about adult supervision, what is available from the program directors, and what may be needed from volunteers. There was also a question about adding after program pick up information on the forms.

Spring Book Fair – Tammy reported that at the Fall Book Fair, \$350.00 was earned to spend on new books and 17 or 18 titles were purchased! The Spring Bookfair will run 4/14 – 4/21, with the Family Night scheduled on Tuesday the 19th. The theme this year is a carnival theme. This is the buy one get one free sale which makes no money for the PTA, but is a great way to promote literacy. Volunteers will be needed and will be requested soon. The same number of cases will be at this fair as there were in the fall.

Target Grants – It was mentioned last month that Target offers grants for enrichment programs and artist in residence programs that may be able to be used for the after school programs. Jenn looked into it and found that applications aren't accepted until March with dispersal of money in September, so we've kind of missed the boat to cover this years' programs but Jenn will fill out for next year. She also found out that there are \$750.00 grants available to teachers for field trips, as well as discounted rates to some field trip destinations, so we should make this information known to the teachers and staff!

Just Between Friends Reward – Shawn reported that our PTA received a check for \$112.62 because people signed up and used the notices! There are two qualifications that earned us this reward; First that at least 20% of our members used the set up wizard, and we sent 10 or more notices. This reward is paid out each semester.

Box Tops/Market Basket Sweepstakes – Jodi Donahue won 5000 bonus BoxTops which equals \$500.00 for our school! Breeda says the certificate will go in with the next submission if it received in time which is iffy so it will probably be included in the check we receive in December. We are due to receive \$550.00 in May, and she has about 300 more still to bundle.

Field Day – the first meeting will be held next Thursday, March 10th at the Ellis library at 6:30 pm. Field Day is scheduled for June 17th. Cathy says they still need someone to run the elementary games which includes coming up with games, figuring out how they are run, what equipment is needed, setting up on the night before, and getting the volunteers organized. She says that Danielle LeClair has had these games running like a well oiled machine, and whomever takes over should be able to step in and easily use her information. They also need someone to run food. The budget for Field Day is \$4000.00.

Artist in Residence – Ball in the House will be here on March 10th; the performance times have been switched up due to a Kindergarten Field Trip that is occurring that day as well so K-4 (and some pre-K) will have the 9am show and the middle school will have the 1pm show. They should be out by 2:30. Jen and Shawn will take them out to lunch, and they will be provided water through the cafeteria and we'll reimburse them.

Father/Daughter Dance – Shawn reported that Melissa and Vicki are planning on running again this year. Shawn told her that we wanted a committee this year to help them out. Melissa is planning

on coming to a meeting and will get back to us with some dates. We're hoping to have more information at the April meeting, including setting up the committee and discussing the budget.

Other Business –

- Shawn contacted Jodi Antoine about the King Arthur Bread Baking program that came on February 10th for grades 4-7. The feedback was that the program was a huge success; the students were very excited and engaged. About a half dozen boxes of bread were sent to the food pantry. She says she would love to do it again next year!
- Shawn received an e-mail from a new community member who said that Bob's Stores do grants similar to Target and that she had some great ideas for some low cost/high fun after school activities such as lego clubs, tie dyeing, and others.
- The next meeting is Thursday April 7th, 7pm at the Fremont Public Library.