

## Fremont PTA Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 6, 2010 – 7pm

**In Attendance** – Sue Hinckley, Jen Rydeen, Shawn Perreault, Jennifer Brown, Deb Genthner, Breeda Royer, Brenda Silva, Cathy Herrmann, Nancy Bernhardt, Camilla Fraize.

**April's Minutes** approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Spring Fundraiser total was \$13,109.00, bringing a profit of 5296.21. We received checks for the Exeter shopping night event totaling \$42.00. We also received our check for the Hannaford Bucks program in the amount of \$486.00.

### **Mini Grants –**

Mrs. Almon (K) requested \$150.94 to purchase a Hot Dots complete phonics system; an electronic learning game (pen and cards) for the AM and PM Kindergarten classes to use. It will help with lesson extension of word study. This price includes shipping. This mini-grant was approved.

Mrs. Normandin requested \$250.00 to purchase age appropriate fun rainy day recess activities and games. She requested the \$250.00 so she could go to the store, purchase items and then return unused monies. The membership decided to approve the mini-grant for \$100.00 for the time being and ask her to see what she can purchase for that amount. Anything else above that amount she would like to purchase she will be asked to provide a list for reconsideration of a higher amount. Approved for \$100.00.

Mrs. Antoine requested \$200.00 for books for the library.

Mrs. Eichen in the fall applied for a mini-grant that was partially approved. She was approved to purchase disposable cameras for a weather project. There was \$46.09 remaining for developing which has turned out to not be enough. She requested an additional \$20.00 to develop the cameras. Approved for \$20.00.

**Staff Appreciation** – Thanks to all for your help and donations! The week was quite successful and held a surprise each day for the staff. Monday, they received the invitation to the luncheon, Tuesday they received a gift certificate to 11 Water Street restaurant in Exeter, Wednesday they received chocolates, Thursday was the luncheon and Friday they received potted pansies. The luncheon was great, and despite having as much food as we have had in the past we ran out! We had to make a run to Fremont Pizzeria which caused us to go over budget for this event. Dorine Caswell from 11 Water Street has offered to cater at cost next year.

**Field Day** – coming along well. T-shirts are being ordered, working on getting water. Renting a dunk tank and climbing wall again this year. We are doing Frisbees again to conserve waste. Cathy said they had hoped to order water bottles for the kids as there is just too much waste having the little bottles of water but they were just too expensive so they are asking kids to bring their own water bottles which

they will be able to fill. They are asking for gallons of water in addition to juice boxes this year so they bottles can be filled. K-1<sup>st</sup> grade will be going back to the school between 12:45 – 1:00. They are trying to get some 8<sup>th</sup> graders to help again this year. May 20<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting.

**Fundraising Ideas** for spring – Jenn Brown brought some suggestions for future fundraising. She had heard of an organization hosting the show “Flanagan’s Wake” at the Haverhill Country Club which brought in \$10,000 dollars and thought the idea is great in that we are not selling anything. It would be a night out for parents, and would be fun! She also read in the Carriage Towne News that the Sandown PTA had raised \$9,000.00 doing an auction at Zorbino’s. Chester does this too with a dinner and does very well raising the same level of money. Consensus is that these are great ideas we should really consider trying to start.

Cathy Herrmann has been in contact with the Meadow Farms representative who has asked if we are going to fundraise with them again next year. We made \$4099.00 this year. The membership approved.

**Box Tops** – Faith is stepping down and Breeda needs a second hand to help with the younger grades. There are two submission dates a year; February 28<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Way to Grow** – The Lands End contest has been extended through May 14<sup>th</sup>. Ellis is currently in 8<sup>th</sup> place and is the only school in New England to be in the top 10!

**Laminating Volunteer** is still needed for next year.

**Volunteers** are needed for Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> as the school is hosting an outside fun day similar to the Fall Festival.

#### **Other Business –**

Though the mini-grant program has been very successful, Nancy brought up an alternative idea for next year in that the kitchen desperately needs a new stove. Their current stove has only two burners! A new one would probably cost about \$5,000.00. Maybe the money we have been budgeting for Mini-Grants could be put there next year, or we could possibly hold a separate fundraiser for it. If we could even provide half of the funds, it would be a great service to the staff and to our students. They currently have menu limitations because of the size of the stove and could provide more nutritious lunches if they had bigger capacity.

**Artist in Residence** – Sammy the Snail just came to the school and was very enjoyed by the students. The program focuses on anti bullying and conflict resolution. Maybe we could bring her back as an artist in residence for next year. The best time for artist in residence programs is February or March but it would be great to have a the beginning of the school year. Jen Rydeen suggested pairing it with a Middle School bullying program she is part of that is free and sets up Leadership or Friendship teams that foster peer support.

**Our next meeting** is June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm.

