

Fremont PTA Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 7, 2010

In Attendance – Jodi Donahue, Sue Hinckley, Antje McKee Courcy, Melanie Petrin, Cathy Herrmann, Jen Rydeen, Jennifer Brown, Shawn Perreault, Camilla Fraize

September's minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report – approved as amended to take \$324.92 from general fund to cover 2 mini grants approved last year that still needed to be honored (Mrs. Milner's fruit/veggie bean bags from 5/12/10 in the amount of \$234.95, and Mrs. Jackson's playground balls from 5/12/10 – this mini grant was originally for \$237.24 but when she went to place the order, the shipping was no longer free and the total then became \$250.56. Mrs. Jackson gave the PTA a check for \$13.32 to cover the difference, but the membership decided to return her check and amend the amount of the mini grant to \$250.00).

Mini Grants –

Mikella Eichen is requesting \$205.99 to purchase listening equipment for her listening center. The benefits include providing a model of fluent reading, improving listening skills and to enrich the multi sensory experience with books. Six students can use at the same time. The equipment would reside in her classroom. She has purchased audio books, but has no equipment to use to listen to the books. The membership approved the mini-grant pending principal approval.

Membership Report – We have approximately 101 members including teachers at this time, though we still have forms coming in. We have received over \$700.00 in membership funds and have received a lot of donations.

National Convention – The National Convention is November 12th and 13th this year. Shawn Perreault (President), Jen Rydeen (Vice-President) and Jenn Brown (Treasurer) will be attending. Will the membership vote to cover the fee for the Saturday evening meal? The fee is approximately \$25.00 per person. The membership voted to add a line item for \$75.00 convention meal fee.

Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant – Lowes is giving \$5000.00 grants to 1000 schools in the fall and spring. Our application has been submitted! Jen Rydeen has been working with Mr. Herrmann to prepare the application to use the funds for our greenhouse. We should hear in about 3 months and if we do not receive the grant, we can reapply in the spring.

Fremont Day Festival – Jen reports that the day was a fun event. We had a few donations used for raffles including a griddle, and a raffle basket put together by Elizabeth Torre that contained all sorts of goodies. We offered full face painting and a lollipop tree and received \$260.69 in donations! These funds will go to the stove cost.

Fall Fundraiser – When Cathy picked up the forms on Tuesday, there were only 12 so she decided to extend the deadline. People are ordering online, and when she picked up at the school today there was a full box. Hopefully the long weekend will give people the opportunity to get orders together.

New Stove Update – The stove is now in. There were a couple of problems along the way including fire code problems, and the nozzles being blown out by the gas company. The stove is already saving a lot of time in the kitchen; new menus and options are in the future. We received a thank you letter from the school board.

Superintendent Lander attended the meeting to present the mission statement they came up with after gathering input from several organizations (including the PTA) in the spring.

Fall Book Fair – The book fair will begin on 11/5 with a teacher preview and will run through 11/12. Family night is scheduled for the 10th. There will be an e-mail asking for volunteers going out soon.

Mother/Son Night – Since we have the father/daughter dance, it would be nice to have a mother/son event as well. Shawn presented a few ideas:

1. Laser tag.
2. Movie night - Newington Regal Cinemas will allow us to rent a theater, but we would have to buy out all 124 seats. They do offer a group rate with groups over 25. We would have to pay in advance. Consensus would be it would be difficult to find a movie that would suit all age levels.
3. Bowling – Shawn contacted Park Lanes and they suggested a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. We would need to have at least 20 people and would basically pay the birthday party price of \$13.50 per person and would get 1 hour of bowling, shoes, pizza, soda and cake. For \$10.00 per person, we could get 2 strings of bowling with shoes. Shawn is going to call back and see if we can bring in our own food and use the party room. We're looking to hold this even possibly in March.

Artist in Residence – Shawn presented 2 possibilities:

1. Go for the Stars – A Multimedia Space Program. Two presentations would be \$600.00, three sessions for \$800.00 (K-2, 3-5, 6-8)
2. Granite State Zoo (formerly Wild Life Encounters) – PTA receives 10% off these programs. They offer a Classroom/Grade Enrichment program for up to 99 students (interactive, personal and hands on, a single class is \$250.00 + travel @ \$0.50/mile RT with a 2nd consecutive class at \$175.00) and an assembly style program for over 100 students (whole grade, multi-grade or school wide assemblies, a 60 minute/6 species presentation is \$275.00 + travel and a 90 minute/9 species presentation is \$350.00 + travel).

Market America Program – This fundraising idea was presented at the last meeting. The overall feeling is that we have never endorsed any individual's business which is what this would be. In addition, there

is already a similar program in place with the BoxTops marketplace (www.BTFE.com) where you can shop and earn for the school. We decided to respectfully decline the offer.

Other Business –

Elizabeth Torre put forth the possibility of holding a joint fundraiser with the FAA in holding a “Vineyard Tasting Night” that would feature wine tasting and a silent auction. We had talked about having an event such as this in the spring and the general consensus was that it would be difficult to work together on an event such as that. A better idea might be to have a family fun day where the FAA would host the concession and the PTA would take the gate sales.

We received a thank you from Mrs. Emery’s class for the camera purchased through the Mini Grant program.

We received several drawings and thank you cards from Mrs. Lathrop’s class for the playground balls.

BoxTops check should be cut December 15th and should equal approximately \$1500.00. There’s probably another \$300.00 - \$400.00 from the October submission. We usually receive the check the first or second week of January.

Brenda has the information for the taxes, so they are in the works.

The next meeting will be Thursday November 4th at 7pm at the Fremont Public Library.