

**Fremont PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday October 6, 2011**

**In Attendance** – Deb Genthner, Jennifer Brown, Beth Swanson, Bridget Paine, Dorine Caswell, Nicole Szymkowski, Brittany Thompson, Tammy Bond, Doug Totten, Jennifer Rydeen, Shawn Perreault, Antje Mckee-Courcy, Kimberly Dyer, Sue Hinckley, Michele Colman, Lia Sprague, Faith Levesque, Camilla Fraize.

**The Minutes** from September were approved.

**The Treasurer's Report** was presented. Beginning balance as of 9/1/11 was \$24,749.69. Total deposits were \$1074.36 (membership, Just Between Friends). Total expenses were \$764.58 (mini grant, movie licensing, welcome back luncheon reimbursement, office supplies). The ending balance as of 9/30/11 is \$25,058.77. It was noted that the Kindergarten Academy total was \$152.19, which was under budget by \$47.81.

**Fall Fundraiser** – Shawn reported that everything was being mailed out tomorrow. Total sales were a little over \$14,000. She heard a lot of good feedback on the new company that it was nice to have a different selection of items!

**Volunteer Tea** – Dates have been set for Tuesday October 11 from 10-11am, and Thursday October 13 from 1-2pm. Shawn and Jen have also made themselves available on Tuesday night at 7pm to people for whom the daytime slots don't work. There was a motion made to provide up to \$100.00 for refreshments for the tea. This was approved.

**10 for 10 fundraiser** – Kathy (Trends), and Dorine Caswell (11 Water Street) came to present the 10 for 10 fundraiser that is happening with downtown Exeter merchants again this year. Over 25 Exeter vendors are offering a great opportunity for select area schools to earn some extra money. On Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup> shoppers at participating stores will receive a 10% discount on their purchase, AND 10% of their purchase will also be donated to their school if they tell the vendor they are shopping for the fundraiser. Last year, there was one shopping night, this year they are giving us two full shopping days to make our purchases! They had over 13,000 in sales last year, \$8,000 of which was from one school. We really need to advertise this event!

**Mini Grants** – There were five Mini Grants to consider!

- Mrs. Coyle – This was done prior to the meeting via e-mail vote. She was looking to add more audio books to the listening selections they have available and books/activities for use during Literacy Work Station times for first grade students. Students will be engaged in Literacy Work Stations while teachers are teaching guided reading groups. The Listening Station is one of 3 stations that a student could visit in a day. Scholastic is offering extra bonus points for the purchase of \$275. She is requesting the full \$250.00 Mini Grant, and plans to add her own \$25.00 which will allow her to get 5000 bonus points which is more than enough to get a wooden listening caddy (picture attached) for free and will leave her with extra bonus points in her scholastic account. This was approved via e-mail.

- Mrs. Eichen is requesting \$239.20 to purchase Cuisenaire Rods for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms. With this item, students will recognize emerging patterns in number relationships and recognize, generate and master new strategies. The cost breaks down to \$224.25 for the Cuisenaire Rods Wood set, and \$14.95 for shipping. This was approved.
- Mrs. Jackson is requesting \$250.00 to purchase Kettlebells and iTunes gift card to incorporate Kettlebell and crossfit into wellness classes. She has earned her level 2 Kettlebell instructor certificate and wants a couple of heavier bells for the older students. The cost for 2 kettlebells is \$157.64 including shipping, and the remainder would be spent on an iTunes card. There was concern about the amount for the iTunes. There was a motion to approve just the kettlebells in the amount of \$157.64. This was approved.
- Mrs. Gobeil is requesting \$140.00 + mileage for two 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes to participate in a hands on workshop, through a traveling program that gives an understanding of how the NH Indians lived during the Industrial Revolution. There was concern about the mileage part; about how to pre-calculate that amount. There was a motion made to make the total amount of the mini grant \$190.00 maximum to cover the mileage. This was approved.
- Mr. Herrmann is requesting \$250.00 to purchase a Mantis Tiller (a mini roto tiller) for use in the greenhouse and school gardens. This was approved.
- Mrs. South is requesting \$212.94 (this doesn't include shipping) to purchase a Literacy Work Station, and Quick pick reading comprehension literacy cards for the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms. These work stations allow students to listen to books and do literacy activities. The Mobil Station is \$199.99, and reading comprehension cards are 12.95. At this point, the remaining total in the Mini Grant Fund was \$228.38. Because the cost given to us didn't include shipping, there was concern that there wouldn't be enough to cover the entire cost. A motion was made to approve just the listening station and shipping not to exceed \$228.00. This was approved.

**Gift Card Program** (Jen Rydeen) – This is a great program that can really help ease shopping around the holidays, while earning a percentage for the PTA! It will run two times before Christmas this year. The first run is from October 28<sup>th</sup> through November 7<sup>th</sup>, with pick-ups on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November. The second run is from December 2<sup>nd</sup> through December 9<sup>th</sup> with pick-ups on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Fall Book Fair-** The theme of the Scholastic fall book fair this year is Out of this World. Tammy reports that it feels like Scholastic is trying to move away from being a fundraiser as at the meeting she attended it was clearly stated that this is meant to be a literacy event, not a fundraiser; just something to be thinking about. The book fair will run from October 31<sup>st</sup> through November 4<sup>th</sup>. Family Night will take place on Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup> from 3:30 – 8:00. We will be receiving 9 cases of books plus all the extra “stuff” (pens, pencils, erasers etc...). Tammy learned that one of each of the posters sent can be offered as raffle prizes so she plans on wrapping 3 or 4 books in foil and having students take a stab at guessing how many pages in the books. She shared all the ways we can earn points that go towards book purchases including her attendance at an informational meeting, holding the Family Night event, and having principal participation just to name a few. One for Books is another opportunity to earn free books. The amount donated to the One for Books container during the book fair is matched by Scholastic toward free books! To boost these earnings, Tammy was thinking about having elementary students be allowed to wear pajamas, and middle school students be allowed to wear hats to school by paying \$0.25. She reported that this year she is hoping to do a hybrid of the last two years when it comes to teacher wish lists as the list idea didn't go over as well last year as she would have liked. She plans to allow teachers to pull their top 10 books, then put the remainder on a list. She is hoping to alleviate the confusion of having so many books out of order!

**Family Reading Night** – The event is coming along. There will be three readers who will read a variety of Shel Silverstein; some favorites, some less known picks and a selection of poetry. There will be an activity table with activities for a variety of age groups, a book swap table where families can bring books they no longer read to swap with other families for new reads, and every family attending will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win the new Shel Silverstein poetry/drawing collection titled Everything On It that was given to us for that purpose by PTO Today. Should be a fun night!

**PTA Convention** – the rooms have been booked, and registration forms are about to be sent in. Shawn, Jen, Antje and Cammie will be attending November 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>.

**Lowes Grant Update** – Mr. Herrmann’s heating/cooling system has been designed and is now in place. There is just under \$3000.00 left and he is looking into pricing on solar panels.

**BoxTops** – the submission deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup> (postmarked by November 1<sup>st</sup>). Cammie reports that she will be picking up final submissions at the school at the beginning of next week and will be then counting and bagging to get them turned in!

#### **Other Business –**

- **After School Workshops** are starting! Mad Science is coming back for our 1<sup>st</sup> workshop to present “Fire and Ice”! Jenn would welcome any ideas anyone might have for programs to bring into the school. Some suggestions she has received so far are a martial arts presentation, and fairy houses.
- **Assistant Principal Totten** wanted to extend thanks to the PTA for the Welcome Back Luncheon; he said it was very appreciated! Additionally, he was asking if there was anyone interested in helping in the K-4 lunchroom on a regular basis to free up staff for recess. Volunteers are needed to help little ones open juice boxes and packages, and help with other small tasks. They would not be expected to discipline; there would still be staff present to deal with those issues!
- **Sunny D Book Spree** - Faith Levesque expressed a concern that Sunny D labels are not coming in as she had hoped they would. The Sunny D Company puts on the Sunny D Book Spree program which awards 20 books for 20 labels turned in. She has three teachers hoping to earn the books this year; Mrs. Normandin (2<sup>nd</sup>), Mrs. Schreiber (K), and Mrs. Carrier (K).
- **Lost and Found** - She is also looking for someone to take over the Lost and Found area which would involve going into the school and organizing the items once a week, then taking the items before winter break and the end of school, and donating the items so they don’t just get thrown away.
- **The Giving Tree** – Shawn wanted to point out some information about The Giving Tree program. The PTA used to donate to this, but we had heard that the program was now being run by the Methodist Church. When doing the budget, we were concerned that in supporting the program, we were kind of supporting that church and that since our membership is made up of people from many different religious backgrounds, we didn’t want to support one over another. Consequently, we took that donation out of our budget. It was brought to Shawn’s attention that The Giving Tree is the very same program serving the very same people in our community as it always has; the one and only difference was that the drop off had changed to the church. This was just something to think about for next time; do we want to think about re-instating our donation?
- **Our next meeting** will be Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm in the Fremont Public Library Community Room.