

*The West Newbury PTO
Meeting
September 20, 2010*

6:45 Social

7:00 Welcome and Opening Statements: Sue Hersey welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. Introductions were made.

7:05 Acknowledgements, Thank Yous and Business Updates:

- **Liz's Retirement Party-** Sue Hersey thanked Stephanie Musial, Jeanne Kelleher, Celeste Winter, Meg Beriau. The party went off very well. Thank you to Glenn Kemper for catering the event.
- **Sixth Grade Dance-** Sue thanked Terri Bashaw, Leanne O'Friel. This event is typically run by fifth grade parents. Terri thanked everyone who volunteered last year. She recommended an increase for this coming year from \$600.00 to \$650.00.
- **Garden Project-**Sue thanked Mary Lee Kennefick for over a decade of work on the gardens at the Page School. Also, thanks to Kim Mosley at Knapps Florist for providing the plantings at discount. Also thanks to Lisa Ward, Erin Young, Margi Graninger, Terri Bashaw, Carolyn Jackson, Holly Colvin, and many other parents and students who helped with this transformation. Special thanks to Dr. O'Mara for his help with the project.
- **Back To School BBQ-**Sue Hersey recognized and thanked Julie Conover for organizing the barbecue. Thank you also to Glenn Kemper for his catering. There were about 250 attendees. The event raised \$1,057 in ticket sales, Expenses totaled \$600. Profit totaled \$457. We had great weather and lots of happy guests.
- **Apple Harvest Road Race-**Sue Hersey thanked Maureen Hart, Robin Gould, Krista Wesley, and the other volunteers for their volunteer efforts with the Road Race. Maureen Hart stated that there are currently 300 registered runners. Assistance is still needed for volunteers in several areas. There will be a spaghetti supper the night before the race. Maureen Hart is asking for someone to shadow her for next year and to take over the following year.
- **Wrapping Paper Sale-**Denise Olsen provided an update on the Wrapping Paper Fundraiser, reminding everyone that the due date for the end of the sale is Monday, September 27, 2010 Sue Hersey thanked her for her efforts.
- **New Parent Tea and Tours –** Sue Hersey thanked Christine Reading for the tea and tours, as well as the Kindergarten Orientation.
- **Back-to-School Information Day-**Sue Hersey thanked Terri Bashaw and Cindy Drislane for organizing the back to school information day.
- **Teacher Luncheon-**Sue Hersey thanked Anna Marie Beech, and Carolyn Jackson for their help with lunch for the teachers the day before the school year.

- **ASAP:** Meg Beriau and Dianne Romano will be co-chairing the ASAP program. A volunteer is still needed for the parent volunteer program. Four adults are needed.
- **Auction March 2011-** Sue Hersey thanked Pam Atwood for her efforts to date planning for the Auction. Donations are being solicited for the auction. The Auction is scheduled for March 12, 2011 at the Atkinson Country Club. This is the largest fundraiser that the PTO sponsors. The theme for this year is “Spring Fling.”
- **Cultural Arts-** Pam Ellis that Terri Bashaw, Jeanne Kelleher, and Sue Gifford are co-chairing this committee geared toward bringing Cultural Arts programming to the school. She will have more to report next month regarding new ideas and updates from the principal.
- **Craft Fair-**Pam Endyke sent in an update provided by Sue Hersey. The Craft Fair will take place on November 6, 2010. They are still looking for 20 crafters. Anyone who is interested please contact pjendyke@comcast.net. A volunteer is being sought out to replace Tanya Vecchi.
- **Square One Art-**Erin Young chairs this fundraiser. Our children’s artwork can be transformed into coffee mugs, etc. Fundraiser to take place right before the holidays.
- **Holiday Breakfast-**Jeanne Kelleher and Kristin Bucco. The Holiday Breakfast is to take place on December 4, 2010. Two volunteers are being sought out to shadow next year and take it over the year after next.
- **Santa Workshop-**Robin Plizinski. Sue Hersey reported a recap provided by Robin. The purpose is meant for children to purchase gifts for their loved ones. The gifts are wrapped for the children. This year it is being suggested that the Santa’s Workshop take place this year only during the Holiday Breakfast. Volunteers are needed to assist with this during the Holiday Breakfast.
- **Green Team-** Christine Skibbee and Stacey Tew. Stacey reported that some bins are being donated to the school for recycling. Membership is currently down and student volunteers are needed. It was suggested that we let parents know that the recycling program at the Page School earns approximately \$600.00/year.
- **Theater Workshop-** Sue Hersey reported that Kim DiCamillo is stepping down as the chair and Rebecca O’Brian will take her place. Stacey Fixx will no longer be able to run Theater Workshop due to health issues. \$4,484.00 was garnered from the performance last spring. A new director will be needed for the coming year. After expenses, total earnings were \$2,035.00.
- **Destination Imagination-**Carolyn Jackson reported that Kim DiCamillo coordinated this program last year. This is geared toward creating teams of up to 7 kids working on problem solving skills, challenges, critical thinking, and team-building skills. Last year there were approximately 11 teams at Page School. There are competitions where the teams compete against other teams. Information meeting will be at 3:00, September 24, 2010. It is run by parent volunteers, who are always needed to help with this program. The PTO does assist with teams, but volunteers are needed.

- **Social Committee**-Sue Hersey Stephanie Musial and Jeanne Kelleher. Last year, two movie nights and an Art Show were held as events. If anyone is interested in helping out with this committee please contact Stephanie or Jeanne.
- **Box Tops** – Abby Salt reported that Dianne Marks is taking over this fundraiser for her. Box tops are being collected in several places throughout the community. Last year over \$600.00 was raised through this fundraiser. \$266.90 was raised through this fundraiser.
- **Book Fair**: Chris Reading reported that over \$10,000.00 was raised during the spring Book Fair (gross cash). Over \$1500.00 in replacement books are being ordered for the school. Fall Book Fair will again coincide with parent teacher conferences the last week of November/First week of December. Geraldine Van der Hoff is co-chairing this event.
- **Student Directory**: Pam Atwood reported that the directory will be available on-line within the week.

7:20 Approve May Minutes and Treasurer's Report for May, June, July, and August

- Donna McGovern made a motion to approve the May 17, 2010 PTO Minutes. Anna Marie Beech seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Donna McGovern asked about the Kindergarten Screening expenses. Donna McGovern made a motion to approve the May Treasurer's Report. Chris Reading seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with pending changes to be addressed.
- Money expended for DIBELS training was questioned. Anna Marie Beech made a motion to approve the June Treasurer's Report. Carolyn Jackson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- Donna McGovern made a motion to approve the July Treasurer's Report. Chris Reading seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with pending changes to be addressed.
- Carolyn Jackson made a motion to approve the August Treasurer's Report. Donna McGovern seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

7:25 New Business:

- **Pentucket Education Foundation**-Anna Marie Beech reported on a group of volunteers to establish an Education Foundation within the Pentucket District. Foundation is nonprofit comprised of a Board of Directors of parents and community volunteers. Moneys raised will be raised to fund initiatives that will make a difference for parents throughout the district. Next meeting will take place on October 7, 2010.
- **Greetings by the Dozen Fundraiser** - Donna McGovern reported on a new fundraiser based at Greetings by the Dozen in Newburyport, MA (Soon to be changed to Greetings by Design). 20% of sales from her shop between October 15, 2010 and November 21, 2010 will be donated to the Page School. The shop is on Winter Street in Newburyport.

- **October Appropriations Requests:** Sue Hersey stated that the PTO will be taking appropriations requests, asking that all requests be submitted to the PTO by October 1, 2010. Appropriations will be voted upon at the next PTO meeting to take place on October 18, 2010.
- **Facilities Assessment Study/Upcoming Town Meeting** – Sandy Capo reported that the group has narrowed down. On November 25, 2010 there will be a town meeting asking the town to complete \$25,000,000 in repairs. Proposed plan is to repair the roof, add on a gym, make the current gym a cafeteria. A new entranceway will be established that is safe from falling snow. On November 25th it will be decided whether or not it will have a ballot.
- **Kid Sack:** Tina Hill has offered 5.00 for every pack that is sold during October. Packs cost \$15.95 each.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Ink cartridge, cell phone recycling lead:** A new volunteer is needed for lifting the boxes.
- **Bowling Program Lead:** Volunteers needed on Saturday Morning.
- **Snack Shack Help:** on Saturday mornings coffee and muffins are being sold to raise money for the PTO. Volunteers are needed on Saturday mornings.

Staff Changes: Cynthia Godin reported on staff changes as of the 2010-2011 year.

- Sara Legere Cassavagh has moved from first to second grade.
- Krista Niles has moved from Kindergarten to second grade.
- Emily Martell has moved to a special education position.
- New staff:
 - Suzanne Kress, new half day Kindergarten teacher
 - Trina Forrest, grade five
 - Judy Manning, Music
 - Anne Lees, pre-Kindergarten and special education paraprofessional
 - Emily de la Cruz, library assistant
 - Danielle Oliva, Speech and Language Pathologist
 - Dining Staff:
 - Linda Vienneau, Manager
 - Ellie Sowick, helper
 - Ellen Soucy, helper

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Next Meeting: Appropriations meeting will be held on October 18, 2010