

Margaret Black Elementary PTO Meeting February 2, 2010

Nicole Bonucchi called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present at the meeting were Nicole Bonucchi, Vice President; Emily Hughes, Secretary; Carrie Wyffels, Treasurer; Mrs. Caruso, Principal and Teacher representatives Mrs. Rzeppa and Mrs. Sefcovic.

Parents present were: Lisa Harness, Teri Rivard, Kim Mercier, Tracy Breton, Laura Secchi, Mike Burton, Dave Grabowski, LaToya Petree, Nancy Mazzola, Jennifer Terry, and Cathy Brown.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer's report for January was presented
- Box tops brought in \$1206.50. Check out the website for Boxtops for Education to get additional box tops for your school.
 - Motion to approve treasurer's report: Lisa Harness
 - Seconded: Kim Mercier
 - Motion passed

Secretary's Report:

- Secretary's report for January was reviewed
 - Motion to approve: Lisa Harness
 - Seconded: Laura Secchi
 - Motion passed

Principal's Report:

- Mrs. Caruso thanked the parents that came to the legislative panel. She read a letter from the superintendent. WCS channel will play a broadcast at 10am and 7pm daily. There are also a few copies of the DVD.
- Mrs. Caruso talked about PLC Mondays and how beneficial they are to the staff and students. They focus on 3 things:
 - Children's learning
 - Collaborate
 - Focus on results
- We did well on the MEAPs. This is a direct result of the teachers and parents working with the students.
- She shared a couple of stories that show what kind of great students we have here.
 - A second grader's coat wouldn't zip and a third grader offered their coat.
 - A student lost \$42 meant for their lunch account and an honest student gave their money back.
- Mrs. Caruso is very proud of her students and school.

Teachers' Representative: Mrs. Rzeppa and Mrs. Sefcovic (CI)

- Mrs. Sefcovic thanked the PTO for their hard work and really going out of the way to help them out.

Committee Reports:

- We are going to jump around the agenda for some parents that need to leave early.
- **Health Council:** Lisa Harness was our representative for the Health Council meeting. One of the great things the health council does is to give gift cards, such as Meijer or Target, to the principals of the schools for them to give to the families in need at their schools. Some of the things learned at this meeting are that Good Fellows and St. Thomas Lutheran are good nearby organizations to donate our canned goods to. Lisa had made the suggestion that in the future, if we have a hat and mitten giving tree to keep 20% of them to have within our own school in case our students need them. Another option is to wash the items in the lost and found and we could use these if a child forgets their gloves or hats at home. Possible quick ways to raise money for the Health Council would be a gum day or the homework passes, both would have the students make a donation to chew gum or get the “homework pass.” Lisa will organize the event and represent our school again at the next meeting scheduled for March 23rd.
- **Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels** – The joint contest between box tops and soup labels ends on February 24th.
- **Birthday Books** – were given out on Monday and there were smiles all the way back to the classrooms!
- **Family Fun Night** – Mike Burton is chairing this event. Fun night will be April 23rd. National Coney Island is all set up to cater again. The menu will stay the same and inventory will be taken to avoid discrepancies. We are hoping to have Guitar Hero again. Fliers will go out in a week or two. There will be no security this year so we will need to have parent volunteers to help keep the building secure.
- **Public Relations** - Nicole has invited the Sentry, Source, and SHTV to cover the talent show on February 26th. We would like to have the story after the show to cover the highlights.

Old Business:

- **DARE graduation** – Congratulations to the DARE graduates! We had a celebration after their ceremony with cake and punch. We’ve already received some thank you notes from some of the 5th graders.
- **After school movie** – The “souper” bowl movie was the Game Plan. We had over 160 kids. Check in and out got a little tough but we think the parents understand we were putting safety first. We had a really great response to this event.
- **Talent and Art Show** – So far there are 59 acts, which is about double what we had last year. The PAC is of no cost for us to use. We have the auditorium, backrooms for changing (which have monitors to watch the show), and a concession room. We will be saving Coney Island for the Family Fun Night and just sell concessions at the show to avoid more cleanup. There is a tour tomorrow of the facility. The Art portion is new this year. Mr. Palo picked 8 projects and 7 will be attending the show. They are staying after school to learn how to do an art statement.
- **Applebee’s Pancake Breakfast** – the breakfast is scheduled for March 20th. We will be having pancakes, fruit, and juice. Tickets go on sale March 1st for \$5. Tickets are available at the door for \$6.
- **Family Bowling Event** – this event is scheduled for May 16th. We are planning for bowling and the shoe rental. We are still contacting different bowling alleys for the best price. More information will follow.

New Business:

- **PTO Popcorn sale** – popcorn sale is scheduled for February 12th. Bags are \$.50.
- **Request for Media Center funds** – a funds request was submitted by Mrs. Lariviere for the renewal of magazine subscriptions for the media center. There was a lot of discussion over this topic as to which magazines are on the list and if there is a range for all grade levels. After much debate, the entire amount of \$658.06 was put to a vote.
 - Motion to approve funds for a one year subscription renewal for the media center
 - All in favor
 - Approved
- **Valagram Sale** – the student council is contributing their proceeds to help Haiti. Entertainment Book wanted to be a part of this great cause so they have donated books to be the prize in raffles within the classrooms. If a student buys 5 or more valagrams, their name will be entered in a raffle to win an entertainment book. The student council has also asked the PTO to match their contribution. Our guess as to what they would make is possibly \$200 or \$300. There was discussion as to if we contribute and how much.
 - A motion to vote for a cap of \$50 to donate along with the student council.
 - Motion to approve
 - Approved
- **Ink cartridge collection** – We are collecting used ink cartridges. We can get money for name brand cartridges and the others we recycle. A box is located in the front office.
- **February Profit share** – Our February profit share will be tomorrow at Dan Good Pizza. We will earn 20% from this event. Flyers are required.

Question and Answer:

- What food will be at the talent show?
 - We will be selling candy and are still working on the details.
- Cookbooks were brought up with the possibility of a fundraiser or memorabilia. They would be the school's family recipes with pictures, notes, advertising, or coupons.
- Questions directed to Mrs. Caruso
 - How much longer will the teachers be out learning the new curriculum?
 - Mrs. Caruso said that the teacher's time out of the classroom is starting to level out. Math and Science are the focus. Science will have labs and is more hands on, therefore needing more training. She tries to have consistent substitutes to minimize disruption in the classrooms.
 - Why have the celebration assemblies stopped this year?
 - Accelerated reading is still recognized in their classrooms. There are 2 main reasons why the assemblies have stopped.
 - 1. enrollment is up and can't fit them all in the gym
 - 2. kids feelings were hurt if they didn't get recognized
 - Are we splitting the cost for the 6th grade band to visit?
 - Mrs. Caruso and the principal from Carleton will be splitting the cost of the bus for the 6th graders to visit.
 - The parking lot seems to be getting better than in previous months

Next meeting will be March 2nd
Motion to adjourn: Mike Burton
Seconded: Cathy Brown
Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 8:04pm

After the meeting we had a quick side note that we overlooked Market Day. The profit was \$208.08 and pickup is on February 23rd from 6-7pm.

Please check the school website for additional information: www.wcs.k12.mi.us/black/

2009/2010 PTO Board
Kristine Grabowski, President
Nicole Bonucchi, Vice President
Carrie Wyffels, Treasurer
Emily Hughes, Secretary