

## **Margaret Black Elementary PTO Meeting January 5, 2010**

Kristine Grabowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Parents present were: Lisa Harness, Colleen Beattie, Colleen Ciak, Kim Mercier, Joe Fiori, Mike and Angie Burton, Beth Kraemer, Connie Cleary, Nancy Mazzola, Butrus Kamal, Cliff Terry, Iyabo Shafau, and Anthony and Colleen Russo.

Thank you all for coming, this is a great turn out! Happy New Year.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Treasurer's report for November was presented
- Cocoa café 8021 for \$300 should be moved under assemblies for the magician  
Motion to approve treasurer's report: Lisa Harness  
Seconded: Kim Mercier  
Motion passed

### **Secretary's Report:**

- Secretary's report for November was reviewed  
Motion to approve: Beth Kraemer  
Seconded: Connie Cleary  
Motion passed

### **Principal's Report:**

- We appreciate your time in coming to the PTO meetings and we need your help.
- It is school board recognition month. Cliff Terry is our school's representative and we thank you for all your hard work.
- We are still taking votes for Warren Consolidated School Teacher of the Year. You can go on the website to nominate until Friday.
- Recent Budget Cuts – 2 handouts were provided. One was a letter from the superintendent regarding the budget cuts and the budget is available on website. The other is the midyear reduction and the specific areas that have cuts. They are closing Warner and 2 classes from Headstart will be moving here to our school. They will be here from 8am – 3pm. Our clerk will go to ½ time, 4 hours a day. We have only cut 1.5 million at midyear and have over 17 million for next year.

- Dr. Livernois has set up a public forum on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Performing Arts Center at 7pm. WWJ and Fox 2 is moderating. This forum is on the funding situation and public education. There will be more information to follow.
- Questions were asked of Mrs. Caruso and Cliff Terry.
  - How do the budget cuts affect our school?
  - Our clerk will go down to ½ time and there will be no more community events after 6pm. This is for energy saving. PTO activities for the time being will stay. Science fairs have been cut and we will only be allowed to keep 1 club. It will be between Student Council and Recycling Club.
  - Taking on Headstart and having preschool, do these numbers affect keeping our clerk at full time?
  - Unfortunately Headstart and preschool do not count towards our number of students and we need 500 to keep the clerk full time.
  - Is it worth alienating our community by shutting down the school and not allowing others to use it to save only \$36,000 a year?
  - We are facing a revenue cliff next year. It doesn't help the community but we are looking to help k-12. There will be nothing left to cut.
  - With the reduction of latch key hours and people will they be kicking kids out of latchkey?
  - They will be looking at the ratios and follow all regulations for childcare. Children can stay in latchkey.
  - \$537 cut per student seems higher than other districts. Why?
  - It depends on the taxes for your city.
  - What are the costs involved for running a club?
  - Teacher gets a stipend to run a club.
  - Will they reinstate some of the money?
  - That is just speculation at this point.
- The next district board meeting is January 20<sup>th</sup>. You are encouraged to attend. There is an open floor time in order to state your views or questions. The agenda hasn't been posted for that meeting.
- We had a robo call for this meeting and the feedback on it was good.

**Teachers' Representative: Mrs. Garavaglia and Mrs. Galluchi (Kindergarten)**

- Representing Kindergarten, Mrs. Fiengo couldn't be here. Thank you to the PTO and parent volunteers.
- Mrs. Ciak thanks PTO for the cocoa café.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Market Day:** Angie Burton - \$241.39 month to date and \$933.66 year to date. There are approximately 38 customers and are always in need of volunteers.
- **Box Tops for Education** - Joe Fiori representing Kirsten. The parties are done and a success. Not sure of the upcoming contests. We received a check today for \$1200.

- **Birthday Books:** Colleen Beattie is doing well and didn't need to order any more books this month.
- **Public Relations:** Nicole Bonucchi doesn't have anything new to add. If teachers have any pictures from parties or events we can post them to the district website.
- **Campbell Soup Labels:** Wendi Kenny was not present. There will possibly be another contest between Campbell Soup and Box Tops.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Popcorn Day-** went really well. The kids enjoyed and the next one will be before winter break.
- **Mrs. Pyrek's request for Science Material** – This request has been completed and paid. She sent the PTO a thank you note.
- **Holiday Hideaway** – was a success. Monica Orlando chaired and the kids had a blast. We ended up making approximately \$600, which was a great surprise.
- **PTO Giving tree** - we had a wonderful response from the students and families. We had 6 huge bags to give to the Bottomless Toy Chest organization.
- **Subway profit share** – we earned \$316. Was a pretty good idea to have it on the night of conferences.
- **McDonald's profit share** – we earned \$128. We need to remember that we only have a 2 hour window with them. Every company is different and they are strict on the time frame.
- **Winter Wonderland/ Cocoa Café** – We had a magician come in for about 20 minutes. We served cocoa and cookies. The kids seemed to enjoy.
- **Author Mark Crilley** – We had an assembly on 12/8/09 for author Mark Crilley.

#### **New Business:**

- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade D.A.R.E graduation** – The ceremony will be Friday at 10:30 with the Dare officer. The question was asked as to why the ceremony is not in the evening and Mrs. Caruso answered that it is more important for the children to attend their graduation and that they all get to participate. Punch and cake will be served at 2:00.
- **January profit share** - we are still working on Roger's Roost. If that doesn't work out will do either Jet's or Dan Good pizza. There will be a flyer and more information to be announced.
- **Profit share night for February** – we will be having the talent show on Friday February 26<sup>th</sup>. Do we want to skip a profit share night for February and serve food at the talent show?
  - A vote was taken with a majority vote of yes.
- **Applebee's Pancake Breakfast** – This was successful last year. It was a pancake breakfast at the location on 16 & Van Dyke. The tentative date is set for Saturday March 20<sup>th</sup>. Joe Fiori has offered to chair this event.
- **Talent Show** – This event is set for Friday February 26<sup>th</sup> from 5-8. Monica Orlando will be chairing this event. Lots of volunteers are needed to help with costumes and watching the students backstage. We will work with Coney Island on the details for food.
- **Otis Spunkmeyer** – Cookie dough sale was voted on earlier in the year to keep as our spring fundraiser and Deborah Taylor will be the chairperson.

- **Family Fun Night** – This event had been voted on earlier in the year to keep for the families. It is scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>, which is a ½ day and gives us plenty of time to set up. Mike and Angie Burton have offered to chair this event and many volunteers are needed to run games, redemption table, and more. We will schedule the first planning meeting next week and more details will follow.
- **Family Bowling Event** – We are tossing around the idea of having a bowling get together. Questions of whether we should have food or just the bowling. We would do a weekend and need to get our license for 50/50 raffles.
  - Tabled the date until we have our license.
- **After School Movie** – We are planning an after school “souper bowl” movie for the students on the 28th. With a donation of a canned good they can stay and watch a movie. Permission slips will be handed out and the students will vote on a movie. Possibilities include: Air Bud Golden Receiver or Game Plan.
- **Health Counsel Meeting** – The Health Counsel is an organization that has lots of services to help families in need. They provide food and clothes and other services. There is information available if needed. We are asking for a representative to go to the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at the administration building.
  - Lisa Harness has offered to represent.
- **Outstanding Teacher of the Year** – Mrs. Caruso talked about this earlier in the meeting. There is information on the school’s website and the deadline is Friday.
- **School Funding Forum** – There is forum scheduled on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The budget cuts that were discussed earlier in the meeting are only for the second semester. If there are concerns parents are encouraged to attend the school board meetings. There will be more information to follow next week.

**Thank you all for coming!**

**Question and Answer:**

- No questions.

Next meeting will be February 2nd

Motion to adjourn: Beth Kraemer

Seconded: Lisa Harness

Motion passed and meeting adjourned at 8:08pm

Please check the school website for additional information: [www.wcs.k12.mi.us/black/](http://www.wcs.k12.mi.us/black/)

**2009/2010 PTO Board**

Kristine Grabowski, President

Nicole Bonucchi, Vice President

Carrie Wyffels, Treasurer

Emily Hughes, Secretary