

Weston PTO Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Ellen Livingston, Danielle Black, Karyn Taylor, Tina Chartrand, Cheryl Maloney, Ed Heller, Lee McCanne, Laura Miller, Kim Costello, Lisa Williams, Lisa Green, Jane Fong, Deb Egan, Deb Sullivan, Robin Ewald, Jean O'Connor, Aviva Jeruchim, Linda Angelucci, Adrian Proll

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm.

Opening Business:

Approval of April 13, 2010 PTO meeting minutes.

The Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Tina Chartrand

Tina reported that things are busy. Keep sending in receipts for reimbursement. The fiscal year ends on June 30th and Tina would like to close the books out so please submit your receipts.

Financial actuals are attached to report.

Superintendent's Report: Cheryl Maloney

1. Facility Updates

- a. High School science labs-charrette with Dr. Frank Locker, expert in school planning- will be held May 22nd from 9 to 1 in the high school cafeteria. A charrette is a facilitated discussion with break out groups that has a goal of reaching consensus on design. Parent groups such as the Math and Science Council, School Council members from middle and high school, and PTO Board are all invited. Town committee members from the PBC, Planning Board, conservation Committee, Climate Control and Selectmen have all been invited. I spoke with Biogen Idec, specifically the individuals involved in the high school student outreach program and community relations and they are unable to attend on that

date. However, we may schedule a meeting with them at another time or another representative from Biogen idec may attend the May 22nd charrette. It is an open meeting for all community members, though a size of 50 would be ideal. Dr. Locker will also meet with the Science Department and representatives from other high school departments on May 18th.

- b. Field School-We will begin advertising for the Owner's Project Manager on May 19th, having had our RFS approved by the MSBA. See chart for what happens next (MSBA Process Flow Chart handed out).
2. Thank you to the PTO for help with the Staff Recognition, which was a great success.
3. There have been two school improvement plans presented to the School Committee thus far: Middle School on April 26th and High School on May 6th. Field School is this Thursday and Woodland is May 20 and Country May 27. The School Committee will approve the plans on June 7th.
4. Superintendent Committees: we are in the process of preparing final reports from the Global Committee and the Communication Committee. These will both be presented to the School Committee at the June 21st meeting as part of my report on my annual goals for this year.
5. Brown Street traffic- Traffic Committee planning on reviewing plans.

School Committee's Report: Ed Heller, Maryanne Rogers

Ed spoke about the past town meeting. The budget passed and was well received with a 1.94% increase. The increase comes from the special education programs, salary contracts and extending the mandarin program through to the 11th grade.

All school technology passed. New buses (3) were approved.

School Committee is negotiating with the unions. There is a 1 year holding pattern until the 3 year contracts.

Cheryl and Ed attended a Pioneer Think Tank Meeting. Disruptive Technologies in the classroom was discussed. In Florida, there is a school that anyone can take a course online and take the credits back to their school. In particular to AP classes and college courses this is a tool that can propel learning at an individuals level to accelerate their learning.

Legal Council: Aviva Jeruchim

Aviva reported that the language in the PTO book is mainly straightened out. Things are quiet otherwise.

New Business: Ellen Livingston

Work is being done on the Student Calendar Directory for grades k-5. Calls and emails are being made to each household to confirm email addresses. Best effort will be made to get feedback. One email address per primary household although the school would like to have both guardian addresses. The primary address will be the information source.

Ellen presented the slate for PTO 2010-2011 and asked for a motion to approve. Motion was approved.

Danielle thanked the nominating committee for all their hard work, with a special thank you to Liz Hochberger for chairing the committee.

Transition Meetings should be set up between outgoing and incoming members to PTO positions. Set up the meetings, pass along job descriptions and Ellen and Danielle are available to sit in on the meetings if anyone would like them to.

June 9th at the Community Center will be the end of year PTO Transition Dinner.

Lastly, Ellen asked if she could get a roundup report from everyone of their major accomplishments this year and would love photographs to accompany the report. She would like to have them by May 17th.

Old Business: Ellen Livingston

The Global Education Committee, now linked with the PTO, will be sending out requests for volunteers. Help is needed for the kids coming and/or going to educate elsewhere with places to stay, resources, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CALENDAR PRODUCTION: Kim Costello, Robin Ewald

Robin distributed around a contact list for next years PTO directory. She asked that everyone check the information and add the telephone number that will be published.

Templates went out a week ago. An announcement was put in Westword and listserv announcing the templates.

Exemption forms went out. ½ the forms are for people who want to omit their emails from the book and the other ½ are for 2nd addresses.

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL: Jane Fong, Lisa Williams

As of May 10, 2010.....

- We have had 193 people renew their membership; of those 6 are METCO and 4 are staff. (The good news is that as of 5/10/09, we had only 129 memberships, so we are up significantly.)
- We have received payments of \$11,325 - \$9,435 by Pay Pal and \$1,890 by check. (Again, the good news is that as of 5/10/09, we had only \$6,440 in payments so we are up from last year.)
- We have received 304 orders for calendars and 115 orders for additional calendars.
- We have advertised the membership drive in The Town Crier (on April 29), in Westword (April 14, April 28 and May 4), on list-serve (on April 30 and May 6).
- We placed sandwich boards at each of the schools beginning May 1 (we borrowed four from the Rec Center).
- On May 9, we will be placing our three sandwich boards in the town locations (Route 20, Route 30 and Transfer Station). They will also be placed in the town locations the weeks of May 23, June 6 and June 20.
- On May 16, we will place them back at the schools. Similarly they will be in the school locations the week of May 30 and June 13.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Carolann Augustine, Deb Sullivan

- We are in the process of reviewing 2009 and determining our focus for 2010
- We have confirmed two dates for 2010/2011 school year:
 - August 25, 2010 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM: PTO Ice Cream Social for New Weston Families
 - April 6, 2011 12:45 PM to 2:45 PM: Weston PTO 2nd Annual Community Day

WESTWORD: Laura Dubin, Greg Augustine

Laura asked that we remind everyone to respect the deadline for submitting information to Westword of Thursday at 4pm. This deadline needs to be adhered to.

HIGH SCHOOL: Jean O'Connor, Marion Packs

Very busy month with Seniors getting ready to go out on their internships, Prom, AP exams.

Successful Principal's coffee with discussions taking place about bullying, senior skip day, and the large size of the incoming freshman class. This was our final parent ed meeting of the year.

The Junior/Senior Prom was held on Saturday night and was a great event..no incidents and all home safe and sound after a great pre-emptive campaign to squash parties with underage drinking, a meeting at the community center about that topic and postcard campaign was well orchestrated by Mitch Finnegan and his group.

Art Show opens on Thurs night, PTO has asked to provide hospitality.

Remainder of the year full of events for seniors.

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Joan Heilbronner, Deb Egan

School Improvement Plan: John Gibbons presented the MS school improvement plan to the School Committee which was very well received.

Principal's Coffee: John Gibbons held his final principal's coffee at the Middle School. It took the form of an open discussion about a variety of topics and allowed parents to voice concerns and ask questions.

MS Play, The Lottery, won the gold medal at the Drama Festival. In addition, they won awards for costume design and set design, and three students won individual acting awards.

Intergenerational Day: Intergenerational day was a big success. Seniors visited the MS for the morning and engaged in various activities with the students.

Concerts: Band and Orchestra performed this past week, and chorus is scheduled for the current week. The band and orchestra concerts were phenomenal.

Washington D.C.: The 8th grade class is preparing for its trip to Washington D.C. They leave on May 24 and return on May 28. The 8th grade head parents are working hard on thank you baskets for the chaperones which will be distributed upon their return.

MS Book Fair cancelled. Its purpose is to support the MS library, however, it also requires the library to close for the week, a hardship for many students who rely on the library's resources to complete final projects. Currently, the library is well supported, so the decision was made to cancel the book fair.

Transition Activities:

John will attend a principal's coffee at Field School to discuss transitioning to the Middle School on May 14.

On May 26 John Gibbons will hold a meeting for 5th grade parents about the transition to MS. This is an opportunity for those parents to meet John and the Grade Heads Dave Poras and Georgeann Bossers and other staff members at the MS. On June 4 the current 5th graders will visit the Middle School, always an exciting time!

Teacher Appreciation Lunch: TA lunch will be held on Wed. June 2. This year's theme is It's Great to be Green. In addition to a menu filled with green foods, we are encouraging volunteers to buy local and or organic meats and produce. WE have arranged to borrow cutlery and glassware from the High School. We will use china belonging to the MS.

Middle School Field Day is scheduled for June 9.

8th Grade Activities: The 8th grade semiformal plans are underway and will take place on June 17 in the evening. The 8th grade Moving On Day Breakfast and ceremony will occur on the last day of school. The food will be donated by 8th grade parents and the PTO, and 7th grade parents will work during the breakfast.

FIELD SCHOOL: Linda Angelucci, Adrian Proll

April

- Field School Art Show (4/7) - organized refreshments for first ever Field School Art Show (which was a tremendous success)
- Fifth Grade Spring Dance (4/9) - held in place of the 5th Grade Movie Night as a fundraiser for the 5th Grade Celebration. Huge success! Not only did we raise over \$700, we saw nearly 150 Field School 5th graders come together with about 20 of their private-school friends and dance their little legs off for about two hours. Really great event.
- Principal's Coffee (4/12) - Weston's district program directors presented the scope and sequence of programs (Athletics, Art, Music, Health - World Languages not available) in the MS and HS. Great primer for Field School parents.
- School Council: continued working on 2010/11 School Improvement Plan, with a focus on defining Field's vision and mission statements, with supporting goals that can be executed against in the following academic year. Process has included significant Council work as well as input from many teachers and some parents, Presentation to School Committee is Thursday, May 13th
- 5th Grade Celebration & Video: Theme chosen, arrangements & plans in place (rain & shine) for Rivers; volunteers beginning to come together; video in good shape.

Upcoming Events:

- 5th Grade Parent Discussion Group (5/6)
- School Council presentation to School Committee (5/13)
- Principal's Coffee with John Gibbons (5/14)
- Grade 3 Visit to Field School (5/19)
- Grade 3-4 Transition Forum (5/27)

COUNTRY SCHOOL: Laura Miller, Brooke Tiller

May will be a very busy month for us at Country School. We started off with National Teacher Appreciation Week from May 3rd through May 7th. To thank our teachers, we gave them little thank you gifts on Tuesday morning with an invitation to attend a continental breakfast hosted by PTO on Friday morning. Our parents were extremely generous and the teachers were overwhelmed with all of the delicious offerings!

Kindergarten orientation for the incoming METCO students will take place on Wednesday, May 19th in the Country School Library. Our spring concert will be held on Friday, May 21st. Our school council is preparing our school improvement plan to be presented to the School Committee on Thursday, May 27th at 8 AM. All parents are welcome to attend.

Looking ahead to June, we kick off the month with Steve Shaw's Retirement Celebration. There will be a casual gathering at the Country School on Thursday, June 3rd from 5-6:30 PM where families can bring their own picnic dinner and help Steve celebrate his retirement. All families and community members are welcome. Then we move on to the 3rd Grade Bug Play on June 11th and finish up the year with Field Day on June 15th.

WOODLAND SCHOOL: Joanne Melikian-Cate, Rebecca Stevenson

All is going well at Woodland—we're starting to gear up for the end of the school year!

We are thrilled to report that the Woodland School Nest (outdoor nature classroom) has arrived. Children have already been weaving twigs and branches into it. It looks fantastic!

The 3rd graders are gearing up for MCAS, SMART has been helping them prepare.

Our Spring Concert is next Tuesday, May 18th. Our School Council will present our School Improvement Plan later this month as well.

CREATIVE ARTS: Lisa Green, Mandie Jordan-Smith

April was another quiet month for performers at Weston schools but still busy with authors. Kate Klise presented at Field School for Ben Sandall's day and was a huge success. There was a lunch prepared for all faculty, a big thank you to Julie Greenberg for co-ordinating and all the Creative Arts committee for the delicious food. Jeff Kelly started his writing residency at Field School for 4th grade and has done his first 3 sessions. Judith Moffatt will be starting the at the end of May with the cut-paper

illustrations to the stories they are creating with Jeff. The finished books will be on display on June 15th at the Young Authors night, an event for 4th graders and parents. Also during May, authors Maryann Cocca-Leffler will be presenting to Kindergarten and Brian Lies to 1st grade at Woodland and Country. Lastly Andrew Clements will be visiting Field School on May 6th as part of his book tour for his new series, Keepers of the School.

In June, Bamidele the African dancers and drummers will be performing to Woodland and Country School (all grades). Also George Russell & Co, the African gospel group will be performing to Field School for the end of year celebration (all grades).

We have met with all the Principals and have now submitted most of the WEEFC grants for the next school year. We have a diverse selection of performers, artists and storytellers for all the schools to enjoy.

April was another quiet month for performers at Weston schools but still busy with authors. Kate Klise presented at Field School for Ben Sandall's day and was a huge success. There was a lunch prepared for all faculty, a big thank you to Julie Greenberg for co-ordinating and all the Creative Arts committee for the delicious food. Jeff Kelly started his writing residency at Field School for 4th grade and has done his first 3 sessions. Judith Moffatt will be starting the at the end of May with the cut-paper illustrations to the stories they are creating with Jeff. The finished books will be on display on June 15th at the Young Authors night, an event for 4th graders and parents. Also during May, authors Maryann Cocca-Leffler will be presenting to Kindergarten and Brian Lies to 1st grade at Woodland and Country. Lastly Andrew Clements will be visiting Field School on May 6th as part of his book tour for his new series, Keepers of the School.

In June, Bamidele the African dancers and drummers will be performing to Woodland and Country School (all grades). Also George Russell & Co, the African gospel group will be performing to Field School for the end of year celebration (all grades).

We have met with all the Principals and have now submitted most of the WEEFC grants for the next school year. We have a diverse selection of performers, artists and storytellers for all the schools to enjoy.

MATH AND SCIENCE COUNCIL: Betsy Romeri, Denise McGeough

“In the month of May we have three events, the science symposium which was held on May 4th, Zarin Machanda on May 20th, teaching biodiversity for the 10th grade. Finally we have Dan Perlman visiting Woodland and Country elementary schools in support of the Bug Curriculum. This summer, under the leadership of Larry Murphy we will have eight students participating in the summer science internship program. Four Students

will be attending the robotics lab at Tufts University and four students will be going to the Mass General Imaging Labs. The Math & Science Council meets the first Thursday of every month and we welcome the participation of all parents in the Weston School Community.”

WEBMASTERS: Beth Keene, Alicia Abad, Suzanne Lenox

Webmistresses revised the website to reflect the new membership price (\$50) and the free e-calendar download. Data and programs were updated and activated for the 2010 membership season. New forms for the season were also added (Student Directory Exception Form, Spring Sprint Entry Form).

WESTONPAC: Marcy Dorna

Kim reported that they are busy planning for next year.

WEEFC: Kelly Renner

Spring Sprint is on Sunday, May 23rd from 8:30-11am. Volunteers are needed.

PARENT EDUCATION: Barbara Burgess

Not present.

METCO: Jerina Harris

Not present.

WCCA: Barbie Cobb

Not present.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

