

Board Meeting  
November 13, 2007

Present: Pam Remis, Liz Hochberger, Marcy Pomerance, Kay Wynant, Connie Bendetson, Katie Phaneuf, Wendy McCabe, Mary Ellen Sykes, Jean Arturi, Allison Elvekrog, Maria E. Tavares-Reid, Cheryl Antoine, Michelle Jacobs-Darby, Damita Thompson, Elizabeth Nagarajah, Suzie Reeves, Maryanne Rogers, Cheryl Maloney, Alan Oliff, David Fuller

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

**Opening Business:** This was a joint meeting with the Boston Weston/Metco Parent Organization held in Boston at the Boston Police Headquarters in Roxbury. The Weston contingent arrived by bus. After a warm welcome and introductions, Elizabeth Nagarajah chaired the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** The METCO PTO treasurers, Valarie Molyneaux and Rachel Caesar reported a surplus of funds after deducting a donation to WEEFC.

**Superintendent's Report:** Elizabeth mentioned that Alan Oliff will be retiring after this year and that Cheryl Maloney will be taking his place.

**School Committee's Report:** Maryanne Rodgers made a presentation thanking Pattie Knight for her service on the Weston School Committee.

**President's Report:** Pam introduced herself to the attending METCO parents and let them know the role of the PTO in the schools. We then proceeded to brief everyone on the committee reports.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **CALENDAR: Allison Elvekrog**

All is quiet right now with the calendar. Alison and Jean are considering recommendations for improvements with the calendar for next year.

### **MEMBERSHIP: Sharon Buenaventura**

At this point, we are looking forward to the next enrollment season. This year's enrollment was broken down by grade level and it supports the need to focus on incoming kindergarten families. Less than 50% of kindergarten families had signed up with PTO this year compared to an average of 75% for most other grades. We will seek various opportunities to communicate with kindergarten families in the coming spring such as forums sponsored by WCCA. If anyone has any other ideas, please let us know!

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Georgia Argyrople**

The Community Outreach Committee had a very busy month. UNICEF boxes and materials were distributed to the Country, Woodland, Field and Middle Schools for use on Halloween Night. Field School Student Council Representatives were prepared to speak and were escorted to the Country and Woodland Schools on October 26th. The Field School Representatives' speeches were well received by the K-3 classes and two of the Pre-K classes. Thoughtful questions were asked.

The Weston Girl Scouts collected the boxes from the schools and will count the coins collected on Halloween night. They will provide us with a report ASAP. Last year, \$5,294.00 was raised. The goal for this year is \$6,000. With the participation of the Middle School students for the first time, this goal is achievable.

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Thanksgiving Food Drive was kicked off at the Field, Woodland and Country Schools to benefit Bristol Lodge of Waltham. Dick Rogers, Program Director for Bristol Lodge, addressed the Field School students during a General Assembly. Mr. Rogers impressed upon the students how much these families rely on our donations for their Thanksgiving meals. Field School Principal Matt Lucey established an action plan to encourage full participation by the students. Food will be tracked and graphs will be created to demonstrate how many items were collected.

Posters, flyers and large boxes to store the food were also distributed to the schools. Mr. Rogers will return on November 21<sup>st</sup> to address the Country and Woodland School students and to collect all of the food.

Lastly, Pamela Foster was involved in a special Veteran's Day Program on November 9<sup>th</sup>. She reports that the Program was very moving.

**WESTWORD: Carolyn Korbin**

No Report

**HIGH SCHOOL: Marcy Pomerance**

The High School has focused this month on parent education.

Our first forum focused on Concussions. We had an neuropsychologist speak, as well as Ted Johnson, and our own Athletic Trainer, Andrew Rizza. This was so well received that the athletic department has picked up where we left off, and will bring more concussion discussion to the athletes and coaches.

Our second forum highlighted driving dangers, and ways you can be increasingly responsible around those particular pitfalls. We had both Officer Keith and the president of In Control Advanced Driver Training come and educate us all. From the best way to position your hands in the airbag-era, to classes your child can take... we basically taught around the adage that it's easier to stay out of trouble than to get out of trouble.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL: Wendy McCabe**

The Middle School has completed the Magazine Drive. Thanks to Laura Lamere and Elizabeth Nagarajah for handling that very time consuming task.

The fall play Fools was a great success.

Improvements to the locker rooms are beginning.

Winter sports will be starting next week.

Last week the MCAS results were reviewed by faculty see where any improvements could be made.

The school store remains open on Tues. and Thurs.

**FIELD SCHOOL: Diane Anderson**

Things are going well at Field School. The Principal Breakfasts that Matt Lucey has held have been successful. The last of the three will be held on Tuesday, November 27.

Lauren Kelley and Lee Piccard have been busy organizing Tupperware parties for 5th grade parents as a way to raise funds for the 5th Grade End of Year Celebration. We're hoping that one parent from each class will host a party. So far, 6 are scheduled.

Meetings are beginning this week to start planning for the Field School Book Fair which will be held on Friday January 25.

**COUNTRY SCHOOL: Madelaine Kenyon**

With Grade Level Forums, Picture Day and Family Planting Day behind us, Country school is beginning to catch its breath from such a busy fall.

This month we are thanking the Lunch Mothers who monitor lunch tables and recess. Every Friday in November, teachers from the same grade level and the Lunch Mothers will sit down and have a catered lunch together. This lunch allows for the teachers to say thank you and to discuss issues that come up during lunch and recess.

Thank you so much to WEEFC for sending us Odd Bodkins, the Storyteller. He was great with the children and was wonderfully received by teachers and students alike.

**WOODLAND SCHOOL: Ellen Livingston**

October was grade forum month! Carrie Dyball, the adjustment counselor along with the grade leaders discussed developmental and social issues and curriculum. Kindergarten through Second grade each held one forum. The third grade held two forums, one focusing on homework and the other concentrating on math. Parents stayed around after the math forum to learn math games to play with their children at home, which was terrific. All forums were well attended, some with up to 50 in attendance.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, there was a new parent coffee for the preschool families. Parents met with Woodland staff and representatives from PTO, WEEFC, and WSEPAC to talk about life at Woodland as well as discuss concerns and answer questions.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, we had a fall clean up day. The weather was beautiful and 15 parent volunteers weeded and raked the front of Woodland. The school looks great, and we have a spring planting plan in the works.

**CREATIVE ARTS: Michelle Avery/Marilyn Hirsch**

We had Odds Bodkin the storyteller come to Country & Woodland. It was a fabulous performance, both the kids and teachers loved it. He did storytelling from around the world. Odds also came to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and did his Odyssey program. It also was wonderful, and the 9<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are already talking about bringing it back next year.

Thomas Burns, a muralist from Boston, will be doing a residency at the HS. He and the kids will be painting a mural that will hang in the corridor near the steps by the science hallway.

He met with the Metco Student Union a few weeks ago, and Chril Fehl is trying to get him to speak at a first Wed. assembly. The subject and type of mural is really up to the kids to decide. Thomas will be in the HS quite a bit, brainstorming about ideas. We are hoping many, many kids get to work on it. Chris expects it to take 4 months, and be finished in time for the Art Show. It will be a wonderful community builder for all students, even if you feel you can't paint!

**SCIENCE COUNCIL: Bing Brown**

No new report.

**WEBMASTERS: Beth Keene/Alicia Salkewicz**

We have ironed out the issues surrounding the move by our web hosting company to a new server. Now that our live data and programs have been found again (long story), we have been able to get the ball rolling again on corrections and enhancements.

We look forward to continuing to improve the functions and look of the site in the coming months.

**WSEPAC: Rosemary Lydon**

No new report.

**WEEFC: Suzie Reeves**

No new report.

**LWV: Rochelle Nemrow**

No new report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.