



## PTO Meeting Minutes October 18, 2007

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Sarah Bender at 6:35 p.m.

2. **Introductions** – Sarah Bender opened the meeting by saying thank you for the suggestions we had last month. On the sign-up sheet, please note that there is a space where you can indicate where you'd like to volunteer.

The following staff members were introduced: Jenn Weese-Principal, Laura Grapner-speech language, Sherry Case-4<sup>th</sup>, Linda Dowd-1<sup>st</sup>/Literacy Coordinator, Patty Toomey-student achievement and K-2 interventions for reading, Mary Salter,-Kindergartner, Stephani Hardon-3<sup>rd</sup>, and Lisa Leight-art.

The following PTO Officers were introduced: Sarah Bender-President, Ann Ryan-Vice President and Leslie Maegley-Secretary. Toni Masters-Treasurer was absent.

2. **Treasurer's Report** – Sarah Bender

- For Broomfield Days, total sales were \$955.00; expenses were \$661.00, so the net raised was \$293.00. It wasn't intended to be a fundraiser, so these efforts were much appreciated.
- The net profit for the Fall Festival was \$4,804.00 as of now, but there may be some additional receipts coming in.
- Hope to have a final report at November meeting.

4. **Committee Reports**

- Fall Festival - Suzette Fremling, Chair. Heather gave the report on behalf of Suzette. When they originally began discussing the Fall Festival, the ultimate goal was to raise \$2-3k the first year. The committee felt like it went pretty well even considering the wind and the resulting relocation from outside to inside. We also appreciated Jenn, Buster and Mrs. Easterling for facilitating our move from outside into the gym. We're excited about talking about doing another fundraiser again next year. Sarah shared (and many others echoed) many positive comments for the FF Committee. We will be putting out another newsletter soon and would like to thank everyone in that forum.
- Staff Appreciation - Dani Thiret, Chair. Cathy Painter gave the report on behalf of Dani.
  - Parent/Teacher Conferences: The Committee provided 3 meals to teachers during parent/teacher conferences. See Dani Thiret's report attached to the minutes. There was \$350.00 donated by parents and we have \$65.00 left. Stephani Hardon stood up and said she there as a representative from the entire staff to express the staff's appreciation for the Committee's efforts. Stephani passed out hand-written thank you notes from the teachers for the attendees to read. She also mentioned that she has been at several schools and this was the most incredible conference day she personally has ever experienced. The basket lunches were absolutely amazing. Jenn said she and the staff are amazed and by what has taken place so far this year – and it's only mid-October!
  - Custodian Day for Rob, Lorenzo and Cheryl: We gave them each a \$20 personalized gift certificate. Ann shared that Cheryl came up and thanked her personally for the gift certificate and the recognition. Christi Ross gave Dani high marks for how thoughtful and organized she is in running the committee. Cathy encouraged everyone to sign-up to join in their efforts.
  - Classified Staff appreciation. They provided lunch to the office staff, paras and custodial staff for classified staff appreciation day.
- Passive Fundraising - Chanda Organ.
  - Our first Box Top submittal was \$617.30 for only summer through September. We also just mailed in the end of the year BoxTop submittal which was \$315.00, so in December, we'll be getting a check for \$932.30.
  - Campbells has 820 points for ordering in the catalogue full of books, gym equipment, cameras, printers, etc.
  - There was also a fundraiser for Safeway receipt entry, but it is unknown how much was raised. Chanda guessed \$500.
  - Our biggest opportunity is Target as we still only have 17 cards signed up for Meridian. We have earned \$76.00.

- One other option is the Tyson frozen chicken nuggets as each one earns 24 cents. If you have any of those, just send them into the classroom.
- Jen shared that Lisa Meier is going to do Cartridges for Kids and will be publicizing a contest for kids between 11/13 and 11/16. Lisa suggests that everyone hold onto your items until that time and then turn them in so they will count for your child's totals.
- Check out the Passive Fundraising bulletin board in the vestibule.
- Wish Lists – We have gotten feedback that people are buying things on the wish lists and the teachers are very appreciative of that. We will be getting wish lists onto the PTO website. One suggestion was made that instead of buying things like ink cartridges that gift cards be purchased because schools get a discount better than retail purchases. You might also consider purchasing gift cards on the Scip list for fulfilling a wish list request.
- PTO Website – Sarah shared that we have received approval from Jenn to do a website and Jennifer Bragg is willing to work on the web site on our behalf. We're planning to put the Minutes, newsletter, volunteer opportunity, passive fundraising, etc., on the site.

## 5. **Mother/Son & Father/Daughter Events** - Lisa Wagner/Dana Lulich, Co Chairs. The committee met on these two events.

- Mother/Son Basketball game: At this point, they are still working on a date. They are trying to get a peanut-free area, but they have been told they can only get a peanut-free area by purchasing a suite, which is a ton of money. They are hoping to do it on a Friday night and will let us know when they have a potential date.
- Father/Daughter dance: They are looking at the end of April and are hoping for warmer weather. A suggestion was made that we use the DJ from the first year – Spring 2006. The only negative about an end-of-April date is that pictures will be too late to make the yearbook. To make the yearbook, the event would have to be in February
- A suggestion was made that we alternate having mother/daughter and father/son events starting next year so that everyone can participate. Having a mother/daughter tea was also suggested.

## 6. **Fundraising** – Officers

- Scrip - Pam Burgess, Chair and Allison Ducheck, Co-Chair – Monday is the kickoff for Scrip. Orders need to be in early on Monday. United Scrip buys gift certificates at a discount. You're buying a full value card, dollar for dollar. The discount is given to the school and that's where we make our money. Scrip works best on planned purchasing power. The biggest thing for us planning ahead. You have to have your order in by 8:00 am on Monday and you'll be getting your gift cards in your student's backpack. You're making the decisions where you want to stop and =. Because you are purchasing the gift cards. \$5500 – if they – the school make \$237.50 off that one family. Money that they're going to spend anyone. If 50 do that- 12,000 profit to the school. It's just a matter of getting into the habit of filling out the order forms. You can order once a month, once a week, and at holiday time. There's no pressure. Scrip gift certificates are great holiday gifts.

Process – Order forms are sent home on Fridays in backpacks. You can order using the form or online. If you use the form, select the ones you want, total it out, write a check (or money order/cash) and send it in you're your child on Monday. It must be received by 8:00 am in order to meet the deadline. On Friday, you'll receive a nice laminated envelope containing your gift cards. If you order online, go to [www.scripzone.com](http://www.scripzone.com) any day of the week. Once you register, it goes through what you need to do. Grandparents can write their own check. Mary Salter teaches afternoon kindergarten, so she was hoping that they could pay on Friday. Pam said that would work. For more info, go to [www.Unitedscrip.com](http://www.Unitedscrip.com).

- Spring Fundraiser

- Deciding on a Spring Fundraiser will be the main Agenda item for the November meeting. Previously, we talked about doing an adults-only event. The main drawback of that would be the amount of work it would take to pull it off. Someone asked about original artwork being auctioned. Lisa Leight shared how she had just sent home information on taking your child's original artwork and having the image transferred to gifts. If that ends up raising money, they were hoping to use it to buy things to benefit all the kids like better microphones or Linda Easterling (PE) would like a dance/dance revolution floor. We could still do auction items including class/student art for this specific event
- Here are some ideas suggested at the meeting:
  - Selling greenery at Christmas time
  - Selling butter braids

- Taste of Meridian – restaurants would charge \$20 bucks to come and then would donate their food. Combine that with silent auction. Try to do the artwork. Kristin Raney brought back packets – donates mustang embroidery.
- Read-a-thon or a walk-a-thon. These are easy to do, but the problem with might be conflicting the jump rope for heart and we don't want to "a-thon" you to death.
- Stamp It Up – Wendy Highfield volunteered to host a party at the school where she would charge an entry fee and donate both the fee and her profit to the school. She's done these types of fundraisers before and would be happy to do it. It also doesn't cost much and if we could use the school, it wouldn't take too much planning or volunteers to pull off.
- Restaurant nights where a % of the sales from a local restaurant would go to our school. Some thoughts: Chick-fil-a, Gunther Toody's, etc. Suggested having a monthly restaurant.
- Send your Teacher Packing – you sell \$5 tickets to the kids and they can decorate it with their names. Then the ticket goes into a pot and if their teacher's name is drawn, the each would get a weekend away with dinner. It's possible to get all of it donated.

A note about volunteering: How do we reach more people to get involved? There needs to have a good balance with lots of family involvement. Sarah encouraged people to say "no" if they were over extended, but expressed her appreciation at how willing everyone has been.

One idea was discussed to get the kids involved in taking a picture of kids holding hand-painted signs and use those pictures to create personalized thank you cards for the various merchants donating items to Meridian.

## 7. **Crossing Guards** - Ann Ryan

Ann Ryan gave an update on the Crossing Guard program. We are getting a little bit closer to being able to implement a program, so please continue to be patient. We have quite a few people sending in applications this week. The more people that volunteer, the less each one will have to volunteer. We hope to have enough volunteers to have each one only need to commit to once or twice a month. We're also hoping to have some folks willing and able to be back-ups. Jenn confirmed in response to a question that she is willing to work it out so that a parent could watch some of the volunteers' children during their shift.

## 8. **Upcoming Events**

- Scrip Kick-Off – Oct 22
- Red Ribbon Week – Oct 23-31
- Teacher Appreciation Week – confirm dates
- Book Fair – 1<sup>st</sup> week in November
- Next PTO meeting - Nov. 15th, 6:30 pm

Topic for December or January: allocation of funds

## 9. **The Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.**