



## PTO Meeting Minutes May 8, 2008

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Sara Bender at 6:40 p.m. Chick-fil-a provided snacks for all attendees.
2. **Staff and PTO Board Present** -- The following staff and Officers were present:
  - Staff: Mary Salter-Kindergarten, Lisa Meier-Technology/Science, Jenn Weese-Principal, Linda Dowd-1<sup>st</sup> grade/Literacy Coordinator, Laura Grapner-speech language, Patty Toomey-Reading Interventionist
  - PTO Officers: Sarah Bender-President, Ann Ryan-Vice President, Toni Masters-Treasurer and Leslie Maegley-Secretary
3. **Treasurers' Report** – Toni Masters
  - Toni passed out a final Treasurer's Report and a proposed budget. This year, we gave a total of \$9,944.00 back to the school because of the generosity of our community.
  - Overall, we spent \$2,693.00 on staff appreciation, movie night, back to school night, babysitters, etc.
  - This year we started out in debt, with a \$3,000 loan from the office, and next year, we will carry over approximately \$3,500 to start next year with.
  - Toni made a couple of comments regarding the proposed budget
    - Next year we'll receive the Passives money, which we will then provide a portion of back to the office for use for principal/student lunches, student rewards, etc.
    - She is proposing to increase the teacher account number more because we'd like to give back sooner in the year vs. waiting until the end of the year
    - SCRIP – we earned a little over \$1,800 for the school. This area has the potential to earn so much more, so we would like ideas on how to continue to get the word out. Toni still has some King Soopers cards for purchase as we pre-purchased the cards for selling, so contact Toni or Allyson Duchak to purchase.
    - Passives will be handled next year by Pat Hagara. We do not have anyone to head up or be in charge of Skate city night, but we need somebody to head it up. Heather Johnson volunteered to at least go to the luncheon being hosted at Cinzetti's to learn about it. Thanks Heather!!
    - A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the budget as proposed today.

**RESOLVED, the budget is approved as drafted.**

#### 4. **Destination ImagiNation (DI)** – Rachael Rome

- DI is a program that Meridian has sponsored that allowed 5 teams to experience the magic of DI. DI used to be called Odyssey of the Mind and it is a competition where teams of kids compete with other teams to solve a challenge over a period of weeks as well as an instant challenge that is a surprise the day of the competition. DI is about:
  - Teach kids to use and develop their creativity, smarts and problems solving abilities.
  - Kids learning how to work with and solve problems with a team; they are part of a whole, but each team member is an integral part of that team. DI gives quiet kids a voice and it gives non-athletic kids a way to be part of a team. DI is a truly special experience!
  - Each year, DI sends out a number of challenges -- some are technical, some are theatrical, and some are a combination of both. Rachael's team has to bust a myth from a country, not their own. They chose Turkey.
  - As the Team manager, Rachael can't do anything other than to facilitate and provide the kids with the resources they request. The team members have to read and understand the Challenge, and figure out what they're going to do on their own. It is a very challenging thing to be a team manager and not jump in, but the DI philosophy is that the kids can do it
  - Rachael is here because her team is going to Globals because they beat 35 other teams and are hoping for some financial help to make the trip possible for the 6 members and their mothers. (Claire

Hamilton is the 7<sup>th</sup> member but cannot make the trip). They estimate they need \$1,000 per person to cover the costs of the trip, so their goal is \$12,000.

- So far, they have made \$1,000 selling Geraniums and \$450 selling cookies for \$1 apiece. At this time, the totals on Butter Braids are not finished because many order forms are still outstanding.
- As a Board we hoped that the PTO would approve a donation of \$600 (\$100 per team member).
- There was discussion from the PTO members present at the meeting with strong support to increase that amount. Those in attendance felt that this was a wonderful way to help Meridian kids compete and be rewarded for their hard work.
- Rachael's team did their 8-minute performance during the PTO meeting.
- A motion was made and duly seconded to give the Creativity Club \$1,200.00 out of PTO funds to help defray their travel expenses to the Global competition in Nashville, TN.

**RESOLVED, \$1,200 was allocated to Rachael Rome's DI Creativity Club.**

## **5. Teacher Appreciation – Dani Thiret**

- On Monday, several generous parents contributed a breakfast of coffee, juice, breakfast casseroles, fruit, bagels, and donuts
- On Tuesday (the actual Teacher Appreciation Day), Dani arranged for lunch. Thanks to Heather Brown, Marlowe's donated lunch and others brought dessert.
- Wednesday was the day for chair massage as provided by Gina and a colleague. Toni Masters provided each teacher with a special tea following their massage.
- On Thursday, A goody bag was provided to each teacher that contained caramel corn, packets of seeds, coupons for an Origins mini facial, a notepad/pen set, a lottery ticket and a Rock Bottom coupon.
- On Friday, Desi Kennedy gave hand scrubs using the Lemongrass Spa line plus a little gift bag.

## **6. Staff Requests & Comments**

- Thank you for such a fabulous Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you, all of you, you're awesome!
  - We are so fortunate to have the parents that support us.
- One comment regarding SCRIP – have a "Fun Station" at Back to School night to attract people to learn about SCRIP – they really are just gift cards.

## **7. Crossing Guard – Angela Elliott**

- They recently discovered that the district will not allow us to hire and pay people to be crossing guards. Therefore, we are back to looking for volunteer crossing guards.
- Angela and Matthew Plan to send out a flyer to figure out other ways to get to parents
- 15 minutes of someone's time to be able to get kids. They've gotten people to call us back. They have some good ideas for the beginning of the year.
- If there's a Safety Week. WE have great ideas; we just need to put a plan together.
- It takes 60-90 minutes for the training. It's only a 15 minute commitment. Angela has signed up.
- How many people do you need? 15-20 people because during the winter it gets harsh in the mornings.
- I have seen people not respecting the 15 mile per hour.
- It is up to us to help our kids. As parents, we should not be on our cell phones in the school area.
- Sign-up sheet. If that's all you can do, then pass the word around.

## **8. Check Writing Campaign Vote Results – Sarah Bender**

- We received the student vote on what type of equipment/games was preferred by each grade as facilitated by Sara Harp (thank you, Sara!). Sometime between now and Fall, the Board will purchase as much of what the kids selected to be used as soon as possible at the beginning of next year.

## **9. Fall Fundraiser Vote – Sarah Bender**

- Based on the survey, everyone was pretty positive on a number of community activities, but we don't have people stepping up to head any of them up. Thanks to everyone who took time to give us feedback. The Check Writing Campaign got high marks as well.

- Given the lack of volunteers and the discussion on the floor of those in attendance, it was suggested that we vote on catalogue sales vs. cookie dough sales.
- A vote was held at Cookie Dough received 15, Catalogue, 6.

10. **Elections** – Sarah Bender ran the elections. There were no last minute candidates for writing-in and therefore no ballot vote was needed. A voice vote was conducted to confirm each of the following nominees:

- President: **Kris Rimbos** – Has a 1<sup>st</sup> grader and another one that will be starting high school. Was the PTA president at Coyote Ridge 3 years ago when her son was a 5<sup>th</sup> grader there. She has lots of experience. Kris works full-time so this is a way that she can give back to her son’s school as she can’t volunteer in the classroom.
- Co-Vice Presidents: **Amy Helmick and Cathy Painter**
  - Cathy Painter – Only has experience coming to PTO meetings. Has a 1<sup>st</sup> grader, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and a 3-year old. She owns a business and currently serves on the Board of Creative Adoptions.
  - Amy Helmick - 2<sup>nd</sup> grader here, but her daughter misses the cut-off by a day. No experience. Thinks the PTO is very important that they want to do what they can. We have so many great parents, so Cathy and I hope to market the PTO to increase meeting attendance.
- Secretary – **Leslie Maegley** – current incumbent
- Asst. Treasurer – There were no nominees for this position so this will remain open until the Executive Board can locate a candidate. Interested parties should contact Toni.
- Staff Appreciation Coordinator – **Dani Thiret** – current incumbent in non-Board position. This is now a Board position.

All candidates were confirmed via voice confirmation.

11. **Closing** – Sarah Bender

- Thank you for coming and supporting this new PTO this year.
- Next week is our ColdStone fundraiser
- Father/Daughter Dance was a great success. There were over 300 tickets sold. Many positive comments were heard and echoed. Thanks to Lisa and all the other volunteers. We ended up making approximately \$1,000. Some expenses still outstanding.

12. **Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.