

Ichabod Crane Central PTA Meeting- February 11, 2009

Meeting began at 6:45 PM. There were not enough paid members so no quorum was established. Holly Buster was unable to attend so the January minutes were not available.

Treasurer's Report- Michele Graham reported there was little activity this month. Two checks were issued to Scholastic for bingo night books and the Race to Read program. A memorial donation was given to the CGC Foundation in the name of Principal Stickles mother who recently passed away. The ending balance for the elementary fund was \$8564.88. The ending balance for the middle school fund was \$2301.17.

Michele reported that there has been no response from the IRS yet and it seems the Scholastic fall book order payment issue has been resolved.

Correspondence- Cathy Kittle received two letters requesting funding.

One request was from Tim Wells representing the elementary teachers involved with the **Young Authors Garden Party**. The event was started last year and was very successful. He is requesting \$500 to fund 6 grade-level events between the two elementary schools. The PTA budgeted \$250 for the event and requested for more information on breakdown of expenses. If it is for refreshments, then possibly ask for donations from parents. Mr. Stickles said he would speak to Mr. Wells about it.

The second request was from Sean and Carrie Dugan on behalf on **Nature's Classroom**. There are 70 students currently signed up to go; three have applied for full scholarships and three to four will be applying for partial scholarships. The cost is \$300 for the week for each student. Melissa Kruger said last year the group held a pampered chef fundraiser to try and raise some of the money. Carrie Dugan said that a decision was made not to do that this year.

Fundraising- Deb Rapp introduced Rosa Blanca, our Sally Foster representative who has been with the company 14 years. Deb commented that the company was very good to work with and very helpful in packet distribution and delivery support. We ran into a problem with back orders and there was a large second delivery which caused a lot of logistical problems at the primary school.

Ms. Blanca brought some raffle prizes and came to address the concerns about the back orders. The gift company they work with went bankrupt in the Fall and Sally Foster ran out of one of the most popular items which caused such the large number of back orders in November. All affected people received a free gift but she wanted to address the PTA's dissatisfaction. As compensation and to create a better impression, Sally Foster will provide a big incentive for the **cookie dough sale** (this had been voted on in January and was going to be scheduled after the candle sale- samples were brought and they were delicious!). Every student who sells three units of cookie dough (approximately \$12/unit) will receive a free Entertainment book (typically sold for \$30 each). In addition, any student who sells 1 unit or more will be entered into a drawing for a free iPod shuffle.

The cookie sale packets would go out on April 3 with a return date of April 22. Delivery would be on May 14 with a pick up on Saturday, May 15 between the hours 9 AM – 12 PM.

Kyle Ashenbrenner reported that the **Yankee Candle fundraiser** is underway. There was discussion about separating out the deliveries but this may not be necessary since the boxes are smaller than the Fall fundraiser. Another reminder will go out on Friday and delivery will be 4-6 weeks after submitted.

Financial Planning Presentation- Veronica (Roni) Mangione, PTA member and financial advisor with Smith Barney, gave a presentation on the importance of financial planning for families. She emphasized how critical it is to identify your goals, get ready for potential income loss (such as by death, divorce, job loss), and organize your finances (know where everything is). Several handouts and worksheets were provided for people to make their assessments and assist with financial planning.

Middle School- An **internet safety program** is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25 at 7 PM in the high school auditorium. A district-wide phone message was sent out inviting parents to attend. Superintendent Jim Dexter reported that there have been several serious issues lately dealing with internet and cell phone use, including pornographic material circulated among middle school students. He stressed that these are “good kids” and not just the ones who are regularly in trouble; parents need to be aware this can happen with their own child. All parents are strongly encouraged to attend. Middle and high school students will have a separate assembly program.

The **mitten tree donation** was very successful and an **ice cream social** was held for the honor and merit achiever students; approximately 270 students participated. They are looking to do another fundraiser for middle school activities.

PTA- Sponsored Assemblies- Middle school is looking to bring in African acrobats (\$600) and a presentation by the Capital Repertory Theatre on the Underground Railroad (\$900). Primary and elementary schools are looking to do a reptile program (\$700 each). Mr. Stickles will look into the logistics of combining the elementary schools at the high school for one presentation to save money.

Activities Committee- The bingo in February was very successful and Christine White thanked Mr. Stickles for being the caller. The tentative date for the Read-In will be Friday, March 6. It is the last one until the picnic in June.

There was a suggestion to do a lip sync event; Mr. stickles indicated that the talent show at the elementary school was a lot of work to coordinate. The middle school is thinking about hosting an activities night. Please forward suggestions to Tracey Freeman and Carrie Dugan.

Museum Project- Two extra teachers indicated they are interested in participating. PTA voted in January to allow each participating teacher up to \$200 for supplies. Receipts must be submitted for reimbursement. The projects will focus on the Hudson River as part of the Hudson Quadricentennial and will be ready in early April.

PTA Mailboxes- Mr. Stickles will continue to forward all the PTA mail once a week to the Primary School PTA mailbox. There was some confusion because of yearbook submissions.

Kindergarten Screening- Leah Tricozzi is coordinating volunteers. It will be held 3/24, 3/25, 3/26, 3/31, 4/1. One volunteer will be needed for the morning session and one for the afternoon session. Please call Leah at 784-3227 to volunteer.

Value Food Coop- Melissa Kruger reminded everyone that the PTA received a rebate from the food coop on all sales. The PTA receives approximately \$600/year from this rebate donation. It would be good to put a reminder in the newsletter about supporting it; they have great food available.

Meeting was adjourned 8:25 PM. Raffle prizes were drawn.