

## Ichabod Crane Central School District PTA (Elementary & MS) Minutes of October 8, 2008

6:41pm: Meeting called to order. Quorum established. Christine pointed out the sign in sheets, volunteer sheets and last month's minutes. Tim Farley motioned to accept minutes, Michelle Gramm 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor, none opposed motion carried.

6:45: Corresponding. Secretary. Thank you notes from Kindergarten teachers for the learning centers. All teachers signed it and wrote a little note. We also got a note from Carol Rickwald and Karen Vesilio from primary school requesting to expand the butterfly garden. To be put in next newsletter requesting plants to add flowers to said butterfly garden. Tracy mentioned that her and Carrie rec'd letters from middle school students and other people thanking them for bringing Rachel's Challenge to the schools. One letter was read out loud.

We do not have Treasurer's Report, it will be brought in next month. This is about the time that some of our big expenses will be coming in, like Harvest Moon.

6:48: Tracey added that we see a lot of new faces so she thinks that the officers should be re-introduced to help them see who we are. Carrie would also like to introduce the principals for both Elem. & MS, including teachers and teachers aides. Cathy K. states that we are having some issues with the website not displaying properly in Firefox. They should be resolved soon. Chris McGuirk volunteered assistance from her husband to look it, if necessary.

6:49: PTA membership. This year we have 78 members as opposed to last year's 72. We are planning a membership reception which will be located at the Carolina House on either Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> or Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. There is wine tasting on Tuesday nights. We are pushing for the 18<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign up sheet to bring in food. It is usually a couple hours (6-8). Christine notes that you don't have to be a member to attend the reception. We hope that members bring a friend who will then sign up.

6:52: MS. Friends of Rachel group had their first meeting. There were about 25 kids from the MS and the speaker gave them several ideas and ways that they can reach out to others in the school to share the kindness chain. Every time you catch someone doing a random act of kindness you hand them a piece of paper that will eventually become a chain that will be throughout the school. At their first meeting, the kids wrote some letters to the families in the schools that have been going through some rough times to try to help cheer them up. Also, they met with Elise McNeil who is one of the leaders of student council. The seniors this year are doing a food drive because they want to be remembered for helping the community. They wanted to include the MS. Carrie wants to know if we can make it District wide. K-12. We are trying to get 5 truckloads to the food pantry. They are looking for other things as well, not just food such as toiletries and

such as well. October 24<sup>th</sup> will probably be the date the drive will happen. There will be boxes at the school. The MS and High school are doing it a little differently because they are doing it per class and the Elementary's boxes are in the lobby. The senior's already have a pick up truck full.

Tracey has also mentioned that we are trying to come up with a MS fundraiser. Basket raffles have been brought up. Each team will do a different theme, like Movie Night, Game Night, etc. If anyone has ideas for themes, that would be great. She does think that it is a GO. We may be able to get discounted Longenberger baskets to help with that raffle.

Carrie mentioned the Veterans Day 5K that the student council is hosting. \$5 for Students and \$10 for adults. It starts at the Glen Square and ends at the Main Street. The first 100 that register will get a free T Shirt. Walkers are welcome as well. Registration is at 9, kickoff at 10 and ending at noon. There are sign up sheets here for anyone who is interested. There was some discussion about where the funds are going.

Tracey is working on the Internet Safety program to set a date that an officer can come and put on a show. It is difficult because right now they can only do student programs. We are working on maybe trying to do that in November.

Tracy got a flyer about cell phone use and what doctor's are saying what cell phones are doing to our body. It was passed around for those who were interested.

7:04: Activities Comm. (Christine gave brief description about this committee) Michelle Webb asked for any older children that can do face painting. Also for that night, we have Mrs. Olmsted will be reading spooky stories. She will be set up in the small gym because it is quieter than the cafeteria. If she wants to bring her Ant costume, she can. Possibly going to try bringing the sound system because sound dies in there. Face painting is heavy. Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> is the first annual K-8 Bingo Night. Farley will be calling the numbers. 6:30-8pm. Stickles will be calling the K-5 Bingo Night, which is in January. Christine did put a sheet out for the volunteers for that night. Right now we have 4-5 cases of books and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade books will be ordered this week. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> is the K-5 Movie night. The Movie will be Alvin and the Chipmunks. Breakfast with Santa will be done again. It is Saturday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> at the Kinderhook Elks Lodge. Tickets will go on sale November 19<sup>th</sup>. We will need many volunteers.

7:12: Fall fundraiser update. Deb says that it won't be as strong as last year. We did extend it a week. We got a lot that last week. They did the first batch and have checks and money to give Michelle. We have to open packages and verify funds. If someone has time to go over and do that, please see Deb. It will be another couple weeks before we can get a total. This year it does seem a lot less. She discussed helping to raise money for the fifth grade trip. There is cookie dough. She knows that other people sell it but it is a consumable object and it will sell continuously. Possibly do that in the beginning of February. All cookie dough is 40%. The past statistics are great.

There was disagreement over financial support of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip. It was suggested that the students contribute a portion of the cost because it is a very expensive field trip. Christine asked that the issue be slated for a future meeting because there are many different opinions which need to be heard. Cathy K made a motion to have the cookie dough fundraiser as a K-5 fundraiser option. Tim F. seconds motion. All in favor, none opposed. Christine thinks that this should be kept in mind that doing this fundraiser is not for the purpose of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip it is for the full PTA. If we don't raise enough money, we may have to cut the budget back on all items.

7:24: PTA raised approximately \$5000 from the book fairs which is funneled to the school libraries for purchasing books. MVB did a little better than MHG this year. Primary earned money as well.

7:25: Summer reading challenge winners were drawn. Winners were: Cassidy Shook (who didn't have a bike), Alyssa Wills, Marissa Odell in MVB, MHG was ( ).MS Garrett Poe. There was not a lot of participation from the elementary schools (7-8 entries). The primary school had about 60 entries.

7:28: School Tool Box. Michelle Webb wanted to share this idea. Teachers would give the PTA a list of supplies that each student would need and the PTA would then order the items and the kids will have a box of supplies waiting for them when they get to school. They have personalized labels for each student. They also have a display box for the parents to see. We can also post flyers. Not everyone has to purchase them. It is easy to get started and easy to do. Should we look into it because we have to have the order it by May. Should she proceed? Every person who places an order receives a \$5 gift card to Target. It also can be done as a fundraiser. There is no up front cost to the PTA. Shipping is included. The majority feels that Michelle should indeed go further obtaining information about this. Also, there is an option that we can return boxes by Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

7:35: Race to Read update. Ms Murray says that they are doing wonderfully. Pam Ward thought that she was going to be able to proceed with the program this year. However, she is not able to do it this year. We will be reaching out to parents to read to the kids. Primary will be doing first distribution in the week of Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, the theme is animals. They have asked retired teachers to come in and read to the kids.

7:41: Christine mentions that a first grader lost a parent to cancer. We did basket raffles in the past. As a PTA, we can't give funds. You can help raise money but you can't gift money. A couple of years ago, we put jars out to help families in need. We also did 50/50 raffles to raise money as well. In the past we raised \$300 for each family. Tracey thinks that we just may be better off putting a jar out at upcoming events.

7:44: Unfinished committess. Pam Ward is still doing Book Cart at MHG. Dot is doing it at MVB, as well as the Yearbook. An email to Pam will be sent to see if she is still running cart.

We have a new Nutrition Committee, the response from parents were great. Though we asked for nutritious snacks, we got a lot of cookies. Perhaps it would be good if the committee provides suggestions, ie Chex Mix, pretzels. Mr Dexter also mentioned that the District has a Wellness Policy Committee and anyone from the Nutrition committee would like to be on this committee, they are welcome. Let him know if you are interested.

Laurie wanted to double clarify, do we need permission to distribute flyers to students? All PTA stuff is approved for distribution. Everything can go to the principal.

7:55: Open Forum.

Carrie said that we need someone new to do Box Tops. We have to count tops and trim them. Ann Muller, Kyle and Patty will do the Box Tops.

Campbell's Soup labels are to be sent to the High School

Debbie from the MHG & MVB is requesting clothes for the Nurse's office. Send it in with the child. Add this to Newsletter.

A request from the MS principal was put in requesting a flag for the gym. At least 20' x 25'. Carol VanDanberg may be able to look into prices through her contact at Gettsburg Flags.

Tools for Schools. We have decided to stay with the purchase of art supplies for all schools.

Melissa mentioned that we purchased bins for the books for the primary schools. That is what they did with the \$5,000 that was donated to them.\

8:03: Motion to adjourn, Michele, Tim Farley 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved. Meeting adjourned.