

## Ichabod Crane Central PTA Minutes of April 8, 2009

6:45pm- Quorum Established.

6:46- **Minutes-** Cathy Kittle motioned to approve minutes, Leah 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor. Approved.

6:46- **Treasurer's Report-** Ending balance of \$23,584.07. This will go down once we pay for the Yankee Candle Fundraiser, leaving an approx. balance of \$13,000 for the Elem. PTA. There is a \$1,000 profit for the Smencils fundraising for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip.

MS has an ending balance of \$1,373. Motion to approve treasure's report-Holly Buster, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Ann Mueller. All in favor. Approved.

6:50 – **Correspondence-** Thank you from Lorraine Davidson to purchase instruments. Note from Elaine Kline, thank you for the \$ for the classrooms this year. She did a lot with it and each of the students wrote a thank you letter for all of the items. Next week 71 students are heading to Nature's Classroom. Several students wouldn't have this opportunity without the PTA and we received a thank you from Sean and Carrie Dugan. We have some posters from the kids thanking us, they will be hung on the elementary bulletin board. Mr Stickles will put them up. The website was recently updated.

6:54- **Fundraising-** We have a rep from Kathryn Beich tonight. Kathryn Beich merged with another company, Great American and they have more stuff. For next year, Deb will not be able to manage it and so she has a couple people coming in to explain it so someone can understand and take over.

Karen McGrath (rep) has worked with many boards and PTA and loves to work with schools and does a lot of the work for you for delivery and set-up. Karen is there every step of the way, whatever you need them to do. With this economy, there are thousands of fundraising companies closing every day. They are a solid company and there should be no fear that they would be closing since they are so large. The products come directly from the supplier in boxes, and if the item is breakable, there is styrofoam in it. They have nice quality and are very innovative. They do have items that are created by hand from third world countries. By making and selling the items, the woman are able to feed and clothe their children and give them medical attention. Everything is nickel and lead free. They sell DVDs and CDs. They have practical items and items that can be used. Prices range from \$5.50 and up. There are over thousands of items that are \$10 or less. They have personalized items that are available online. Some items are a lot like LL Bean. Also, their packing and order forms are very streamlined. A copy of the order forms are in the pick-up box for participants. If an item is damaged, you contact the company directly so the school doesn't have to deal with it.

She brought an example of the fall catalog. The blue has more items than the red which is more trendy; the red has less but is more classic. In the catalog, everything is 50% item cost is returned to PTA, except the magazines, jewelry and canvas which are 40%. Food is available as well. Truffles and other candies are available as well. There are also discount cards that can be used. A new item is the Enjoy the city (like Entertainment, but cheaper).

In this district, deliveries are an issue. They do have home delivery, but we lose 10% profit. Another suggestion is to have the catalog for the primary school and the magazines for the Elementary School. The magazines have no product to deliver and the kids love getting mail. People can go online and see their order

form and when they are going to get it. One of their catalogs has 750 magazines. The average magazine is \$20, and the gift catalog is \$10-so you don't have to sell as many magazines to raise the same amount of money. She has found from her experience, it is easier to have everything delivered to one school. We have to do that anyway because the Elem. Schools have no storage. Deb thinks we should consider home delivery. Leah mentioned that 10% is a lot of money on the sales. She said that she wouldn't mind delivering the items to the people themselves if there are any left over. Leah is thinking about taking over fundraising when Deb steps down.

Note: Carrie Dugan said she had a good experience with Karen but Tim Farley and his school did not, though she did a good job with delivery and stuff. You have to choose a Rep that we/you are comfortable with.

**7:23-MS PTA-** The Underground Railroad assembly was great. The 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades seemed to really enjoy it. The program was about a family that came up here and made a name for themselves. The actors read letters that actually existed. They were from Capital Repertoire Theatre. It was very well done and well worth the \$900.

The MS is doing a talent show on April 24<sup>th</sup>. There are about 11 acts. The PTA offered to have refreshments that night. It is at the MS. (The High School show is right after it)

We will also do a Walk A Thon with Friends of Rachel on May 12<sup>th</sup> on the track. Sponsor sheets will be sent out with the kids.

Teacher Appreciation for the MS is May 6<sup>th</sup> (Wed.) The Flyer has gone out. Pam Ward will be doing the food portion of it. 4<sup>th</sup> Garage, 6<sup>th</sup> MVB, May 5<sup>th</sup> Primary, 7<sup>th</sup> at MHG. It is nice to NOT have it on a Friday in case there are leftovers.

African Acrobats got moved from May 7<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>, and it is in the Gym not the Auditorium.

**7:31- K-5 School Assemblies-** We ran into a problem with the reptile show. Tracey talked to the rep and was told that they could do 2 locations, but when Christine spoke to them, they can only do one because of the time limit. Christine was thinking about having the reptiles for the elementary grades and possibly doing the acrobats for the Primary school. All seem to be in favor of this.

**7:34-Yankee Candle-** There were some orders found in the PTA mailboxes over the past week or so. Kyle needs to be contacted so they can let someone know. There were some issues about Yankee Candle not having a set date about delivery and the cookies dough order form was sent out before the Yankee Candle order was in. Parents were a little upset. Considering that, we did do well.

**7:38- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip-** Smencils fundraiser sales were great. We were going to have two dates at each school but we sold out quickly so we have to order more. We will sell more after vacation. They are made from recycled newspaper and the kids love them. It may be a good idea to have them at the Primary School during the book fair. Cathy K. asked Mr Stickles if they have made enough money for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip. He said that this fundraiser and the pancake breakfast at Applebees will be good because he knows that they owe the PTA from last year's trip. The boats can fit up to about 300 so there never has been a problem with chaperone.

**7:44-PTA Officers-** New officers are needed for next year. Ann Mueller said that she would think about taking on the treasurer position if it is open. Everything on the Elem. PTA is open. Christine said that she cannot go on as president because of work and childcare issues. Tracey Freeman will remain as MS PTA president and Carrie Dugan is uncertain at this time. In addition to officers, several committee chairs are needed. Cathy K.

will continue doing the website. Deb Rapp said that she will takeover the newsletter. Leah has decided that she will chair the fundraising. Nominations are needed at the next PTA meeting.

7:58- **Arbor Day**- Melissa Murray mentioned the schools would like to do some larger trees this year to provide shade at the playground. They have worked out where to get them, but they cost more. She thought that we could maybe use the monies earned for Festival of Trees to cover Arbor Day as well. Motion to approve this decision by Cathy, all approved.

She wanted to remind everyone that the building principals have to approve flyers that go out. PTA stuff is usually fine.

**Year End Picnic**- Melissa M. is concerned about the end of the year picnic because of the construction zones. The playground will not be directly connected but the parking lot may be full. It may be fine but could we move it elsewhere. Cathy mentioned that they can park in the MS parking lot and walk to the Primary School. Christine's concern would be the people that don't watch their kids. Mr Stickles said that MHG would be the best alternative because they can park on the street. There was a general consensus to have it at the park on State Farm Road.

8:07- **MS Activities Night**- Tracey F. mentioned that Rachel's Challenge will be having a community barbeque and then a movie night. The barbeque will be May 15<sup>th</sup> (Friday) and the movie night will be afterwards. They will be showing The Dark Knight, so maybe the younger kids shouldn't attend the movie.

Tracey also mentioned the Crop Walk which is May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Half of the proceeds go to our local food pantry. It is a 5 mile walk.

8:10-Motion to adjourn by Cathy. All in favor.