

**JOHNNY APPLESEED SCHOOL
PTO MEETING
10/07/08 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Members of Board: Kerrie Mellen, Sharon Skinner, Lynn Pierce, Patti DeAmicis, Meg O'Hearn-Curran, Laurie Lanza, Paula Barnicle, Kathi Pfeiffer, Anita Milliard, Natalie Stassen, Michelle Cotton, Jim Burns; See filed Meeting Sign In Sheet for a list of parents in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 7:05

- A. Kerrie introduced the PTO Board Members
- B. The annual magazine sale started today and will run through 10/20. Last year, this fundraiser earned \$16,000 for the school.
- C. Fall Family Dance will be held on Friday, 11/7 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. The cost is \$5 per family. There will be a DJ, face painting, refreshments, and photos available for purchase (\$2.00).
- D. Scholastic Book Fair will run from 11/17-11/25 in the school library. The Book Fair will also be open during parent conference time.
- E. We will be doing a membership drive with BJ's Wholesale Club in November. The school will receive \$10 for every membership renewal, and \$15 for every new membership. Notices will be coming soon with details.
- F. Year-Long Events
 - a. Books and Beyond-Sharon Skinner reviewed the reading incentive program that will start the week before Thanksgiving. Sharon and Rachel Armington coordinate this popular program. There will be a medal ceremony at the end of the school year. This year's theme will be "Digging for Treasures" with Books and Beyond.
 - b. Box Tops-Maureen Halliwell has volunteered to be our Box Tops for Education Coordinator. Maureen advised that since 2002, Johnny Appleseed School has received over \$10,000 from Box Tops. Last year alone was over \$1,100. Maureen will be sending a notice home soon with more information and instructions for sending in the box tops with your child. The money raised from this program goes directly to our Playground Fund.
 - c. Ink Cartridge Recycling-Lisa Gilmour coordinates this program that gives the school money in exchange for used ink cartridges. Inkjet, Laserjet, cell phones can all be dropped off at the school in the bucket by the office labeled "Cash 4 Kids". We made \$300 from this program last year.

G. Playground Committee

- a. Lisa Gilmour is currently the only member on this committee and is actively looking for help with this. This committee focuses on the maintenance and upkeep of our playground, and also coordinates an annual poinsettia/wreath fundraiser. Any interested parties should contact either the PTO or Lisa Gilmour.

H. School Council Vacancies

- a. Dr. O’Hearn-Curran advised that we need two members for the School Council currently. A School Council is a committee mandated by the Department of Education to serve as an advisory committee to review MCAS scores, data analysis, school improvement plans, etc. The Council is comprised of parents, teachers, and community members.
- b. Dr. O’Hearn-Curran nominated Donna Jordan, who served on the Council last year and would like to continue her term. Kerrie nominated Melissa Hughes, who has a son in fifth grade and a daughter who will be in kindergarten next year. Donna and Melissa were confirmed as members of our School Council.

- I. Melissa Hughes mentioned that there is a program available through Nestle Water to send in labels. Kerrie will look into this.

- J. Patti updated parents on our new PTO “E-News” that will provide periodic updates via email to parents who have provided their email address. Patti confirmed that email addresses will not be shared and will only be used for PTO informational purposes.

K. Guest Speaker: Dr. Meg O’Hearn-Curran

- a. Dr. O’Hearn-Curran thanked our Assistant Principal, Jim Burns, for his help with her transition. She commented on what a wonderful community Johnny Appleseed School has.
- b. New Initiatives at our school:
 - i. Response to Intervention (this is an initiative taken on by the district, as well). Studies have shown that if intervention happens very early, some learning disabilities can be prevented. All students will be screened. In cases where students fall below benchmark, certified teachers will go into those classrooms to work in small groups with students in need of additional help in specific targeted areas. Parents will be notified if a student does not make adequate progress after receiving small group instruction. Students are reassessed three times per school year.
 - ii. Reteach and Enrich: Teachers are working together to form assessments for this new program. First and second grade will focus on writing; third through fifth grades will focus on math. Children who are still learning in a specific area will be part of Reteach; children demonstrating proficiency in a specific area will be part of Enrich. These groups are extremely fluid and

reevaluated by the teachers on a regular basis. Paula Barnicle spoke of how well the first day of Reteach and Enrich worked with the first grade; very positive experience for all involved.

c. Bus Drop-off/Pickup Procedures:

- i. The bus company will be getting bigger busses within the next few weeks that would not have been able to safely navigate the back parking lot. This is student drop-off/pickup has changed to the back parking lot now. Has improved the safety of children exiting cars.
- ii. Kerrie mentioned a concern for pulling out of the back parking lot. The visibility is difficult and will be worse once it snows. Jim Burns is working on smoothing out some of these details.
- iii. There also seems to be a problem of parents parking their cars on Day Street and walking to the parking lot to pickup their children. Jim is actively addressing this as it occurs.
- iv. Lisa Naze brought up a concern that there seems to be no checklist/sign out, etc. when picking up a student. Jim suggested possibly issuing "Pickup ID's" for parents that pickup on a regular basis, and any parent without the ID would have to check in. He will look further into this.
- v. Lynn Pierce asked for supervision on the crosswalk in our parking lot near the Johnny Appleseed statue in the morning and afternoon. Meg/Jim will evaluate to see if this is necessary to have a staff member there for this.

d. Playground:

- i. Questions arose around new playground rules. Meg advised that these are not new rules, just rules that have been in place that are now being enforced. Melissa Hughes asked that a notice be sent home explaining this to parents so they can talk with their children. Meg will put it in the next newsletter.
- ii. Concerns were brought up about the weather and the playground. Specifically, recent windy days and rainy days. Jim advised that he monitors the weather carefully before making the decision to have outdoor recess. If a student is having a problem with the weather, they just need to let a duty aide know.

- I. Kerrie thanked everyone for coming and asked all to check the lost and found on the way out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.