



Carrolltowne Elementary PTA Minutes November 6, 2008

- **Meeting called to order by President Mary Ellen O'Neill at 7:06 pm.** A sign in sheet was circulated. There were 23 people in attendance.
- **Minutes from October 2, 2008 meeting** – Kristin Bernadzikowski made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Whitney Frey.
- **Treasurer Report (Cheryl Leupen):** Handed out budget; raised \$17,298.65 during Fun Run, which is approximately \$2,800 shy of our \$20k goal; because of this, we must tighten our belts. We are working on various fundraisers to try to make up the money. Other ways to save: 1) Overhead – do not touch if we can help it, 2) Bingo Night, and 3) Fundraisers (Yankee Candle); we are happy with what we earned – “only” \$2,800 short...it could have been a lot worse. Lisa Appelaniz made a motion to approve the budget, and it was seconded by Debbie Thompson.
- **President's Report (Mary Ellen O'Neill):**

Have two goals this year – clear and concise communication and create fun activities. Regarding the communication, we have the website, but is it being utilized? We also are rethinking the paperless newsletter. Is the eSchoolNewsletter going away? We need to find out. Whitney Frey questioned whether it was the parent's responsibility to get the information. We would like to have a ½ sheet reminder sent out that tells the parents that the newsletter is online.

Fun Run – Kristin Bernadzikowski and Michele Geidel did a great job with this event!

Game Night – Thanks to Jenn Harrison for a successful night. Also, Spirit Days are going well. Reminder that number day is tomorrow, as is Bingo Night!

Binders – Committee chairs should be keeping a binder, writing down things that work and things that don't work. That way, next year you (or whoever is the committee chair) knows what to do.

School Kitz – Need someone to spearhead this; will talk more in December. Most are in favor of doing school kitz.

Original Works – Fundraiser in January/February (possibly tied into Valentines Day); could do in Art Class? It has to be done on special paper that Original Works provides; suggest to Sue Moore re: having an “Art Night” where kids and parents could show up at school and work on their art. Need 4 weeks turnaround – maybe kickoff on January 6? Will double check the turnaround time just to make sure.

Mornings – Concerns include 2nd and 4th grade students going straight to portables instead of going through school. Mrs. Martin said students were spoken to and told they have to go through the school. Also, are parents paying attention to cones? Possibly have orange safety vests? This depends on who is on duty – some will say things to parents, while others will not. Should we create a diagram for the parking lot, showing the proper procedure for cars pulling in and out? Don't want staff standing in the street – must stand on sidewalk. eSchoolNewsletter and letter can be sent out explaining the process. Also, can cones zig zag instead of be placed front and back?

Bingo Night – We will have a peanut free table; thanks to Megan Graybeal for bringing this up (Peanut Free Food will be available – this is store bought items with packaging that says “No Peanuts used”); we also should address all allergies at events (wheat, peanut); can't guarantee the safety of home baked goods.

- **Vice President's Report (Michele Carroll):**

Die Cut Machines – pads you press upon are worn out; it has been requested that we replace (double check the cost); need to wait until the end of the year to see what we can afford; Israel – Move is on hold; as of right now, not going soon – so Michele is staying on as VP!

- **Assistant Principal's Report (Shavon Showers):**

Principal Ball is doing well and looking forward to her return; Biztown was great – the 5th grade enjoyed it and parents loved it; Report Cards are typed and will go out on 11/11; Also, reminder that school is closed on 11/21, and on 11/19, 1st and 5th grades will be moving their belongings and on 11/20 will be moving their chairs and tables. Question was asked if we would have an open house for the new rooms – will be discussed.

- **Teacher's Report (Edna Martin):**

Thank you for the picnic lunch! Also, welcome to American Education Week – as a reminder, please leave siblings at home. We will need help manning the tables.

- **Committee Reports:**

Birthday Books – September and October birthdays are done; did Prep for the first time. Julie also picked up a ton of books at National Wholesale Liquidators – books were marked down to 29 and 59 cents!

Business – 187 people are signed up at Martins, made \$408 in one month; also added Food Lion to program; Box Tops – raised \$639 for school; www.btf.com – school gets money for items purchased through the site; question was asked – can we use this money to purchase pads for the die cut machine.

Fundraisers – We are having a “Ledo’s” night at the Eldersburg Ledo Pizza. We get 35% above what they normally bring in; it’s on 11/18, and is all day (and includes both dine in and carry out). Also, during the day on 11/18, we will arrange to pick up food for the teachers.

Community Service – Book Drive brought in 1,000 books, and we raised \$188 in the “One for Books” campaign. Next up is the Holiday drive for the Senior Center.

Cultural – Allotted \$5k each year; we want to spend all of it – will include “indoor field trips”; Biztown went very well! Literacy and Cultural are splitting the cost for Author Barry Polisar coming on 3/27/09. This assembly is school wide. Also have \$382.50 in Grants.

Language – Quality Language Foundation folded; however, we will be offering French (10 Weeks) and Mandarin Chinese (20 Weeks) – cost is \$100 per student, and program is available to all grades K - 5th.

Membership – Membership Cards went out today; official drive is over (ended 10/31/08). We have 210 families, which covers 400 people. Also 71% of the teachers are signed up with the PTA.

Publicity – Various articles have appeared in the Advocate, Eagle, etc. Thanks to Jenn Murphy for her work on getting the word out about Carrolltowne’s PTA and our activities.

School Spirit – Bingo Night is tomorrow! Also have hats for sale - \$15 each. This is separate from Spirit Wear order. Family Fun Night was also a success! Plan on having a Daddy/Daughter dance in February.

Sunshine – Cards were sent out to teachers who had babies, as well as teachers/staff who retired.

Ways and Means – T-Shirts and Gifts from the Fun Run will be distributed the week before Thanksgiving.

- **New Business:** None to report.
- **Door Prize:** #17 – Edna Martin (won a gift certificate to Panera)
- **Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 pm**

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mort", written in a cursive style.

**Mort Shuman
PTA Secretary
Carrolltowne Elementary**