

**Goodwin Elementary School
PTO Minutes
October 21, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Officers' Reports

Principal – Deb Adamczyk reported that Walk to School Day was wonderful. Thirty-nine students, parents and teachers participated, along with a police escort. Deb offered congratulations to Janet Pagoni, first grade teacher at Goodwin, for receiving the Teacher of the Year award. Janet will be recognized at the Board of Education meeting Thursday, October 22.

President – Diane Briody provided an update on the Corn Maze and apologized for any confusion about dates and rain dates. Tickets purchased through the PTO may be used any time in October that the maze is open. Diane and the PTO/PTA presidents from Southeast and Vinton are planning on meeting together in the near future to foster communication and support between the PTO/PTAs.

Treasurer – Margaret Judy reviewed the Profit and Loss statement. Income was \$240.20 and expenses totaled \$1,210, including baby-sitting fees and Teacher Gifts. The current checking account balance is \$19,226.55, with \$9,832.72 earmarked for the Playscape fund. The report was unanimously approved.

Secretary – Suzanne Hathaway noted that Kate Dale volunteered to maintain the PTO bulletin board in the front hallway. Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and passed unanimously.

New Business

PTO Calendar

The PTO calendar was reviewed. Upcoming events include the Election Day Bake Sale on November 3, Picture Make-Ups on December 4, Family Ice Skating on December 6, and the Staff Holiday Luncheon in early December (TBD). Stacy Cruess is again willing to coordinate Movie Madness in January. Other dates include International Potluck in February, Backpack Brigade in March, and Staff Appreciation Week and TV Turnoff Week/Sock Hop in April. The Spring Book Fair is May 5-7, and the Fun Fair is May 22. Fourth Grade Promotion traditionally occurs in June, and a date is determined by the administration later in the school year.

Fundraising

Megan Meikle reviewed several fundraising initiatives.

- Square One Art – The students have finished their artwork, and it will be mailed to Square One this week. There is concern about the amount of time the projects took away from art class. The PTO will evaluate the fundraiser after completion to determine if it's successful, of interest in the future and any necessary changes.
- Election Day Bake Sale – Approval was received from the town's registrar. Diane Briody will coordinate volunteers for baking and selling. Megan will provide a tent, and there were offers to provide tables by Diane Briody, Julie Klimkiewicz, and Katie Irizarry. It was noted that purchased baked goods don't sell well. Sugar-free items are always popular, as are whole pies and breads. It's important to keep prices low.
- Stop and Shop A+ Bucks – This is a cash rewards program running mid-Oct 09 to mid-March 10. Issues with registration are now resolved. Sign up at www.stopandshop.com/aplus under "CT-STORRS."
- Subway – This involves pre-purchasing "reloadable" cards to use at Subways, with a percentage of profits going to the PTO. Maggie Judy volunteered to coordinate related activities.
- Rock Cats Baseball – John Prandy recently offered to organize one or two family nights, with a percent of profits benefiting the PTO. The group liked the idea. There was a suggestion to plan for Spring 2010.

- Avon – The group discussed a suggestion to sell Avon as a fundraiser. It was decided not to pursue this since EO Smith traditionally sells Avon, and we're already selling via Square One.
- Big Y Points – Goodwin recently received points from Storrs Community Nursery School when they closed.
- Borders Bookstore Gift Wrapping – Katherine Paulhus suggested consideration of this fundraising activity. On average, groups earn about \$200/day in tips for wrapping customers' purchases for free. The store provides the wrapping paper and the group provides the ribbons. Groups may participate one Saturday and one weekday. Katherine volunteered to coordinate.

Old Business/Committee Reports

Artist in Residence

Suzanne Hathaway provided an overview of the first committee meeting in which the group discussed logistics about planning, budget and fundraising for a 2010-2011 program. Traditionally, the Artist in Residence program occurred every two years, with the last one in 2006. Suzanne proposed that the current 4th grade class attend the play *Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans: A Salsa Fairy Tale* at the Hartford Children's Theatre in January 2010 as an alternative cultural activity since they will miss the Artist In Residence program currently under planning. The group unanimously approved \$370 to fund the field trip. The next committee meeting is January 2010.

Enrichment

Maryann Rollins updated the group on enrichment and Mileage Club planning. The 3rd and 4th grade programs are still undecided. The younger grades will participate in the High Tech High Touch program. Maryann is considering several activities that include the whole Goodwin community, such as a program with the UCONN opera department. Recess activities are in the planning stages. Mileage Club will start up in the spring. Maryann is creating a bulletin board for enrichment/Mileage Club activities. She is also considering several grants that would incorporate healthy living.

School Banking

Discussion was tabled.

School Photos

Katie Irizarry reported that everything went smoothly. Photos will be delivered in approximately five to six weeks. Make-up photo day is December 4, which will allow for delivery prior to Christmas. Katie will send out a flyer close to the date.

Other

Katherine Paulhus provided an update on the possibility of a Veteran's Day Luminaries event, which may need to be postponed for consideration next year.

Guest Speaker

Barbara Casey from the Tri-Town Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking spoke about www.iParentnetwork.org, a virtual town square helping parents in Mansfield, Ashford, and Willington area to connect.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Members present

Deb Adamczyk, Diane Briody, Stacy Cruess, Suzanne Hathaway, Katie Irizarry, Margaret Judy, Julie Klimkiewicz, Megan Meikle, Katherine Paulhus, Maryann Rollins, Anne Wiant-Rudd.

Respectfully submitted by Suzanne Hathaway (*pending approval*)