

**Millersville Elementary School PTA, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
September 4, 2008**

Present:

Stephanie Caruso	Maria T. Murphy	Jennifer Conner
Roxanna Kingston	Margie Harrison	Susan Sheehy
Renee Hoover	Lisa Remer	Robin Martin
Cathy Palmer	Cindy Lahoff	Tammy Brendle
Jen Martin	Jaime Turner	Karin Dorsey
Janet Gerety	Lisa Sarro	Ann Harrison

The PTA General Membership Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm at Millersville Elementary School, Media Center.

Stephanie Caruso introduced herself as PTA President, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the Board.

President's Report

Stephanie discussed the development of the PTA Goals for the 2008-2009 school year, and briefly introduced them. Membership was discussed, and the benefits of being a PTA member were outlined: discounted admission to PTA-sponsored events, a copy of the School Directory, and more.

Stephanie announced the PTA will have a bulletin board in the foyer, under the clock to the right of the doors as you walk in.

Mention of Bylaws:

- Nominations for Board are due in March for April elections.
- PTAs are required to have three meetings a year; we have them monthly
- Committee Chairs have a two-year term per the By-Laws, but if someone is interested, even if already served, they should express an interest.
- Teachers are going to rotate liaison duty. Susan Sheehy was the first.

Committee Discussions

- Each Committee has a binder so if the responsibility for that activity needs to be transferred quickly, the binder can be passed and everything needed is there.
- Each Committee has a Plan of Work form (in the binder) that must be filled out by the Committee Chair, especially if money will be spent.

Teacher Gift Bag Discussion

- Tammy Brendle mentioned that the teachers were happy with their gifts (beach bags filled with ink cartridges, note cards, note paper, chocolates, and other

Growth * Change * Progress

items). She said she was asked whether the teachers would be getting a \$75 gift card or check as they have in years past; some were disappointed that they had not. Some schools give anywhere from \$25 to \$200 for teachers. Will there be a line item in the budget for this? Stephanie explained that the PTA started with a very low budget this year (\$7,000) and already had a lot of money spoken for out of it. Also, the ink cartridges alone were \$4,500. Tammy and Susan Sheehy reiterated that the teachers loved the gift bags, were very appreciative of the ink cartridges in particular, and that many were using the beach bags.

Committee Reports

Box Tops for Education – Report from Cindy Lahoff (last year's Chair)

- MES more than doubled what we've ever gotten before.
- We can get a check during the school year this year if we vote on a promotion effort (as we did with the pizza party last year)
 - It was suggested there be a grade level competition versus an individual class versus class campaign; this was agreed to. Discussion of what the incentive should be; undecided.
- Cindy suggested getting Box Tops magnets as a reminder for homes. Also, store receipts (Target/WalMart) have Box Tops on them.
- Cindy agreed to Chair the Box Tops Committee again this year, along with Kim Tipton. Cindy will do a submission by the end of October deadline so we will get a check this year; the check from our February submission comes next year.

Fundraising

- What is the big fundraiser this year?
- PTA no longer has a Technology Committee; the school, working through AACPS, will now hold one large fundraiser for technology this year in September. **All other fundraising this year will go to PTA.**
- Company is Great American Expectations – gift wrap, candy, etc. plus online purchase option.
- Kickoff is 25 September and the last orders are due on 15 October. Order pickup is November 21st, the Friday before Thanksgiving. If families cannot pick up their orders that night, they can get them during conferences the next week (except for perishables—those must be picked up on the 21st).
- Sales incentives: If kids sell ten items, they will get to come to the MegaParty on 8 December, during the school day in the gym (total items to be sold changes if there is more than one student in one family—15 for two children, for example; details are TBD). Each increment above ten earns something else; if they sell 50 items, they get a limo ride to lunch at Pizza Hut.
- Megaparty: each grade gets 45 minutes at the party; moonbounce, jousting, music (Tammy-approved songs only—nothing remotely inappropriate)
- Tammy is hoping for \$20,000 profit so the school can be fully equipped with Activotes and slates with pens.

Growth * Change * Progress

Safety Committee – Cindy Lahoff (last year's Chair)

- Cindy bought flashlights for custodians two years ago, and replaced them last year.
- Bottles of water in case school is locked down—need to be checked for date and integrity of bottles.
- Snacks were purchased last year, but critters ate through the plastic storage containers and ate the snacks.

Yearbook Committee

- Going with Classic Photography this year; \$17 each
- Many teachers interested in helping; need parents

Hospitality Committee

- Deli Days were superb
- Teacher Staff Appreciation Week was great

Awards and Recognition

- Talk to Tammy when it comes to nominating teachers for AAC Teacher of the Year, good to have one or two nominated. Nominee process is in late January/early February. AAC Board of Ed can nominate an employee of the month (aide) and an educator for the month (teacher); see Tammy for forms.

Recycling

- Cindy Lahoff volunteered to Chair
- Ink cartridge and paper recycling need to be advertised; Cindy to do a flyer
- Can water bottles be recycled in the cafeteria? Can we get a bin for plastic bottles? They do recycle Styrofoam trays.
- How do we become a Green School? Annie Medford researched last year, and it takes a lot, but our recycling efforts are a start.
- The school is going paperless unless parents request otherwise, including newsletter.

Birthday Book Club – Report from Karin Dorsey (last year's Chair)

- Karin agreed to Chair Birthday Book Club Committee this year.
- Need to place an order; purchases books ahead of time so have books on hand for kids to choose.
 - Motion to spend \$500 on Birthday Book Club by Maria T. Murphy, seconded by Lisa Sarro

Human Relations Committee

Stacy Philip, new Guidance Counselor, is running Human Relations this year.

Robin Martin moved to pass budget as it is. Cathy Palmer seconded.

Principal's Report

Back to School night on 1 September, will start with the PTA. Will be able to see fundraiser items.

Fifth grade drown proofing next week; Tammy Brendle will jump in pool if stellar behavior

New Behavior program this year; three tenets:

Respect for self and others

Respect for learning

Respect for property

If students do well, they can get a charm each month to add to a chain.

School Renovations

- Electrical work will continue through next August; PA system and fire system to be done
- Building in the parking lot is a well house for school; water still cannot be drunk, Health Department needs to certify first
- June 09 ripping up parking lot under trees and making parking for 80 more spaces than have now with both lots; staff will park there. Staff lot will become bus lanes because they block Millersville Road when waiting to load or drop off. Parking still be a challenge.

Reading Patio Dedication

- Being dedicated to Diana Strohecker on 27 October at 1:15
- Boy Scouts, Boy Scout VIPs, Diana Strohecker coming.
- If anyone knows someone who can lay bricks to extend the path from the building to the patio, please let Stephanie know.

Dates

9/26 - Volunteer training meeting; coordinator is Joy Corey

10/2 - Chess club begins; Second graders – no Stanford 10, but giving the Nigliari 10/2

10/8 - Fall pictures (**Since the September meeting, this date was changed to 22**

October)

10/9 – School Closed

10/10 – Fourth Grade, AA Community College Field Trip to see “1776”

10/16 - Ice Cream Social

10/17 - Closed - Professional Day

10/27 – Reading Patio Dedication at 1:15 pm

10/31 – Halloween, 2 hour early dismissal, no party, but can do snack and parade

Tammy wanted to do something special at Christmas, going to have Polar Express day, wearing pajamas, slippers, read Polar Express, in afternoon will watch movie—total school event

Growth * Change * Progress

Teachers' Report – Susan Sheehy

- K and 1st grade – air fresheners need to be replaced (are beeping).
 - PTA will look into it.
- Terry Halstaad has researched mats at Bed, Bath & Beyond that absorb water and mud. Need four for the cottages, would PTA buy them? (\$20 apiece).
 - Cathy Palmer moved to purchase, Jennifer Conner seconded.
- School needs a shredder, especially for sensitive documents such as IEPs.
 - Lisa Sarro to research getting a box that can remain in place and company shreds on site periodically.

Maria Murphy asked if electricians working in the school have had background checks. Tammy: Electricians not supposed to be here during the school day, have been background checked by County; know not to be with Ycare kids, Ycare knows as well.

New security system being put in; all visitors will have to have drivers' license scanned to get in and will indicate whether there's a background issue.

Robin Martin moved to adjourn meeting.
Seconded by Roxanna Kingston
Meeting adjourned at about 9:00 pm