

Somers PTA Council Meeting Minutes: Sept. 14, 2010

Attendance: Judi Callan, Susan Taylor, Laura Sweig, Christine Spencer, Nicole Brownstein, Alexis Foreiman, Linda Graffitti, Katie Coppola, Kathy Cucchiarella, Becky Williams, Julie Gorecki, Lex Kessler, Patti Calautti, Kim Moros, Jessica Goldberg, Cathy Vinci, Linda Morgante, Helen Brady, Debbie Deirmendjia, Mary Ward, Lisa Immerblum

I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 9:06am

II. Approval of Minutes – No changes to the May 25, 2010 minutes.

III. Request for SMS Red Ribbon Week Money

Sue Acocella requested \$850 to help pay for a theater group workshop, Periwinkle Production to perform at SMS during Red Ribbon Week. Will perform for each grade separately, about drug addiction, message of hope, and making healthy choices. There will be workshops for students and teachers.

Approved- \$850 from council.

IV. Council President's Report

- Judi Callan opened the meeting, general overview of Council, meetings are second Tuesday of the month from 9am-10:30am. Superintendent will join at 10:30am.
- Judi mentioned there is no continuance from year to year.
- All job descriptions on the PTA Councils website, they should be updated. Make notes on procedures to use as a guideline from year to year.
- Council meetings are 8 times a year, should try and attend all.
- Last year decided on a council mailing for a district wide fundraiser, in the beginning of the school year, cost is approx \$250. Voted Yes to send out the letter.
- If successful the donation campaign is intended to replace the traditional district wide fundraisers.
- There was a discussion on the legality of the split.
- SEPTA was not originally part of the district wide fund-raising

V. Treasurer's Report

Jessica Goldberg

- Checking account balance = \$5,824.59 in bank account.
- Check request form is on website
- Audit Committee met Sept. 13, 2010- all schools were audited and everything is in order

VI. Committee Reports

Parent Programs

Julie Gorecki

- Camp Night, voted yes to have it separated from parent programs. This is a money raiser, in the past charged \$55 made about \$2000.

Cathy Vinci

- Rachel's Challenge is Nov. 4, 2010. Back to the original program for all SMS grades. Parent program is at 7pm
- Would like to do something else in March or April. Some suggestions, nutrition, teen driving, sports injuries. Need a snow date if scheduled in March.

Lex Kessler

- Annual Vote-each PTA unit has one vote a year. Statewide meeting.
- Buses and cars idling at SIS/SMS more than three minutes. Not enforced because it is an emergency route, problem at dismissal time.
- Suggested Joe Bernardi invited to next meeting.

Katie Coppola

- Shop-to-Earn & Book Dedication, get a table at Holiday Happiness

Debbie Deirmendjia

- Central application needs to be worked on
- Organize open houses, needs volunteers
- Needs the PTA banner

Laura Sweig

- PTA Council Website, red umbrella on left side will go to her
- Flyers can be emailed with file.
- Next meeting will have free websites with PDF link
- To post for council, send to Laura, may need Judi's approval, and each individual schools website chair

Becky Williams

- Gift Wrap, how are the earnings split? District wide, need to disclose on paper where the donations are going.
- Checks for gift wrap should be made out to PTA Council or individual schools
- Will disclose in future emails that fundraising will be split by all schools

VIII. Presidents' Reports:

Primrose – Nicole Brownstein and Kristen Iorizzo

- First day of school went well with new principal
- Half days are four instead of seven
- Fundraiser Innisbrook
- New picture studio-one year contract

SIS – Susan Taylor and Kathy Cucchiarella

- Kick off meeting with Mr. Griffiths and Mrs. Elconin
- Red Ribbon Week- No longer have a health teacher, need to revamp to healthy choices for the year not just a week.
- Green Houses, Helen Brady spoke about, have foundation and an electrical contractor to work with the school, not PTA. Oct 15th hope to have greenhouse, will need 5-6 parents to put it up. There is a video on how to assemble and will have a ribbon cutting
- Trail Day, Sept 25th 9am-12pm. Bring rakes to clean up the grounds “National Public Land Day”
- New after school programs.
- A teacher will be at SIS executive board meetings
- Hands on science night was cut out of budget. Last year PTA sponsored it, Fifth graders led the demonstrations, was a big success
- Pictures Oct 1st
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SMS – Linda Graffitti

- Fundraising distributed this week
- Red Ribbon Week contracted with Periwinkle Productions
- TJ Leonard is leaving
- Get more information out to parents on Modified Sport

SHS – Linda Morgante

- Welcome coffee with 34-36 new students, attended by Mr. Blanch and other PTA members
- PTSA college essay workshop, Sept 8th for 3days
- Senior class back to school luncheon
- School supplies are expensive ex, calculators
- Red Ribbon Week, no substance abuse counselor
- Won contest with MSG Varsity, will support homecoming with DJ and food

SEPTA – Cathy Vinci

- Awards ceremony last year was well attended
- Largest board ever 30 people
- Average meeting about 60 people

- Talk about social skills, bullying, Kids Express- a new program after school on Thursdays
- Parent focus group
- Shelly Fleischamn is leaving, need someone for the long term
- First meeting Sept. 29th open to all

IX. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 10:30am

Next meeting: Oct. 12th, 2010

Respectfully submitted: Colleen Olfiers, recording secretary