

Somers PTA Council Meeting Minutes: November 17, 2009

Attendance: Judi Callan, Helen Brady, Susan Taylor, Laura Sweig, Katie Coppola, Angela Welsh, Mary Ward, Julie Gorecki, Alice Shaw, Linda Morgante, Linda Graffitti, Patti Calautti, Christine Spencer, Kathy Cucchiarella, Lynn Carlisto, Cathy Vinci

I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2009 – Some people could not open the e-mailed minutes. Laura Sweig will post minutes to the website in an inconspicuous spot and will inform the Council where they are located for future reference. Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

III. Council President's Report

- A. A meeting was held with Scott Persampieri and Chris White about how to make the district website more user-friendly. The District is very open to making adjustments.
- B. A Girl Scout troop is trying to address the problem of families with no computers by collecting computers for them. See Laura Sweig to make a donation.
- C. The Council is currently forming a committee to discuss guidelines for posting [non-PTA] items on the website. Issues to be addressed include
 1. Where do we draw the line?
 2. Who should make the decision?
- D. Volunteering to be on the committee are Judi Callan, Susan Taylor, Christine Spencer, Patti Calautti, Laura Sweig
- E. Shop to Earn needs more publicity. \$120 is currently in the Shop to Earn account

IV. Treasurer's Report

- A. Tax return was filed Friday, November 14, 2009
- B. Checking account balance = \$6,000
- C. Linda Graffitti opened a new interest-bearing checking account because the old account was not interest-bearing

V. Committee Reports

A. Gift Wrap –

1. Linda Graffitti will clean up and do final reconciliation in February.
2. Right now, the total profit to each school is \$4508.93. Linda Graffitti will e-mail the information to each of the treasurers.
3. We had agreed that up to 7% of the profit will go to SEPTA. That translates to \$315.63 from each school to go to SEPTA.

B. Legislative – Report was sent from Lex Kessler by e-mail

1. Only units that attend the annual meeting can vote. If Council attends in the future, they can only cast one vote, we can cast multiple votes if each unit attends
2. The votes went as planned this year and the new 'position paper' of the PTA is at <http://www.nyspta.org/pdfs/advocacy/WHEREWESTAND200809post-convention.pdf>

C. Marketing/PR – also provided by Lex via e-mail

1. Our camp 'sponsorship' is in jeopardy as a result of the economy, we are renegotiating
2. The 'Tusker Tuesday' campaign only produced a small amount of money, less than the signage expenses, neither the restaurants, or the SEF want to extend/continue
3. Shop to Earn needs a 'clickable' link in every email that goes out to gain traction

D. Reflections – Deadline for submission is December 1st

E. Green Committee

1. Primrose
 - a. Garden is flourishing
 - b. Planted garlic and vegetables

- c. Would like more teacher support. Right now, Helen Wray is doing a lot of the work.
 - d. Second graders are collecting compost.
2. SIS
 - a. Great Trail Day and Soup Day! Lots of publicity.
 - b. Garden is prepared for winter.
 - c. Planted 10 pounds of garlic
 - d. A parent who works at the Cornell Cooperative Extension is coming in to help us move toward growing food to be served in the school cafeteria.
 - e. The greenhouse project is behind. There is a delay with the architects.
 3. SHS – Judi Callan is looking for ways to involve people at SHS

F. *Wellness*

1. SIS parents have expressed that they are uncomfortable with aspects of the Health curriculum. Students are talking about various drugs, but they don't have a full understanding of what they are. Nutrition is being taught as part of the Careers curriculum, not in Health class.
2. A comprehensive examination of the District's wellness policies is being conducted.

VI. Unit Presidents' Reports

A. SHS

1. Some students received letters home to participate in Rachel's Challenge. Some reported disappointment that it has lost momentum and are hoping to keep it up following this week's programs. Students have been asked to write a reflection.
2. Senior Fashion Show March 5th

B. SMS

1. Red Ribbon Week went "great." Kristi Annicchiarico worked with the PTA. Kicking off the bookmark contest at lunch was very effective.
2. Everything else is going well.
3. The 8th grade social lost money, but it is expected that it will be made up with the 6th grade social.
4. Gayle Mottola did a beautiful job creating the first SMS e-newsletter.
5. The clothing drive response was smaller than expected.

C. SIS

1. Everything is going great!
2. Bylaws were approved this week.
3. Book fair and Birthday Party were financially successful
4. They are working on conducting a silent auction – auctioned will be a hockey stick signed by a professional hockey player.
5. They are working with the District on a wellness policy.
6. A series of three presentations on Everyday Math by Julie Gherardi and Liz Olinto were well attended. The 3rd edition of the Everyday Math program was just adopted by the District. Online math support is now provided.
7. There is the assumption that parents are supposed to be drilling and working with their students, but many parents were surprised by this assumption.
8. There have been two confirmed cases of H1N1 flue.
9. The Health Office urges parents who are scheduled to volunteer to stay home if someone in their households have been sick.
10. The absence rate of approximately 37 students per day is normal for this time of year.
11. There has been a higher incidence of lice this year, with at least 40 confirmed cases. There is an unusually high percentage of boys with lice this year.
12. The tax return was filed as scheduled.

D. Primrose

1. Holiday Happiness is December 5th. There are new events this year, including a movie room.
2. Thanks to Linda Graffitti for running Gift Wrap at Primrose.

E. SEPTA

1. Only 61 members to date; 5 administrators have joined.
2. SEPTA funds are lower than usual.
3. It was suggested that next year each school send a SEPTA membership form with its own membership form.
4. It was suggested that school PTAs work with SEPTA to co-sponsor programs.
5. SEPTA would like to have a representative on each school's Education Committee.
6. Rachel's Legacy is being conducted at SHS during the day this week and on Wednesday evening at SMS.

VII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned 10:34 a.m.

Next meeting: January 5, 2010

Respectfully submitted:

Laura Sweig for Teresa Lombardi, Recording Secretary