

Somers PTA  
Council Meeting  
September 22, 2009

Attendance: Helen Brady, Lynn Carlisto, Laura Sweig, Gayle Mottola, Katie Coppola, Judi Callan, Erika Sherman, Kathy Cucchiarella, Susan Taylor, Julie Gorecki, Kim Moros, Christine Spencer, Rita Christensen, Mary Ward, Alice Shaw, Kristen Iorizzo, Becky Williams, Patti Calautti, Debbie Aidala, Stacy Hendrie, Alexis Freiman, Pam Adams, Linda Morgante, Linda Graffitti, Cathy Vinci

Call to Order

\* Meeting was called to order by Judi Callan at 9:03 AM

I. Approval of Minutes

\* Minutes were approved with no changes.

II. Council President's Update – Judi Callan

- Judi read a portion of the speech she gave in November 2001 describing the purpose of creating the PTA Council. Previous to the formation of the PTA Council the Unit Presidents did not meet with each other. Council's purpose is to promote unity, provide inspiration and to enhance the work done at the unit level.
- Council members are working to get the town website to provide information for the youth in town. They are also conveying information and insight to the town regarding web design. Judi will email an invitation to groups in town that serve children so that they can attend a meeting to be part of the process from the beginning.
- Reported that Parliamentary Procedures have been discussed with PTA Unit Presidents.
- All Council members introduced themselves.
- Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> is Family Day. The PTA is a partner in this national event which encourages parents to eat dinner with their children, with the theory that children that eat dinner with their parents frequently are less prone to use drugs, smoke or drink alcohol.
- The next PTA Council meeting is October 20, 2009

III. Treasurer's Report – Linda Graffitti

- We have a cash balance of \$5,688.69.
- An audit has been done on 3 units and on Council.
- It is recommended that if an email vote is done it should be documented in the next month's minutes.
- Reflections went over budget. The funds will come back this year.
- It was discovered that our website fee was being paid by a PTA member.
- Council dues are \$200, Website dues are \$90.
- In March the units should appoint an Audit Committee. The committee should have at least three members and the treasurer should not be a member.
- Susan Taylor suggested having a group formed at the Council level to be the Audit Committee for all Units. Motion was voted on and APPROVED. The Council

Nominating Committee will need to fill the Audit Committee. The audits need to take place during the summer.

#### IV. Committee Reports

##### **Bus Driver Appreciation**

- Erika Sherman explained the breakfast. It will be held on April 23, 2010

##### **Education Committee**

- Pam Adams. Judi will send Pam the Resource Guide. Pam will meet with unit chairs.

##### **Flea Market**

- Erika Sherman. It will be held on June 5, 2010 with a rain date of June 6<sup>th</sup>. Erika will be working to expand it this year. PTA will sell water.

##### **Gift Wrap Fundraiser**

- Sales began October 2<sup>nd</sup>. SIS and PES are selling gift wrap. SMS and SHS are selling cookie dough.

##### **Green Week**

- Helen Brady. Green week will be April 26 – April 30, 2010.
- This Saturday is SIS Trail Day, from 9am-noon.
- October 16, 2009 is Soup Day at SIS.
- Will sell water bottles at Primrose.
- They are looking into possibility of a Green Fundraiser. Suggestions made were: composters, rain barrels, plant sale with native deer-proof plants and tree sales.
- SIS will collect bottle caps again this year.
- SIS Garden Committee got a \$10,000 grant to put in a greenhouse. It is going slowly.
- Wants to incorporate SHS in green work. SHS is looking into a garden system. Environmental Science teacher is looking into grants.
- The SIS building is the best candidate of the schools for solar panels. Mr. Griffiths is speaking to the district.
- Katie Coppola will look into plumbers, electricians, etc. for SIS greenhouse work.

##### **Health & Safety**

- Stacy Hendrie. Working on education of students and parents.
- Working with Norma on health of cafeteria offerings. Judi will give Stacy her notes from previous years.
- Susan Taylor questioned the safety of SIS students standing outside in the grassy area for a long time during an SIS sheltering and evacuation drill.
- Stacy stated that this committee is not working on safety
- Rita Christensen will meet with Health teachers and work out a partnership with them.

##### **Parent Programs**

- Judi Callan for Cathy Vinci. Speaking with Scott Persampieri regarding Rachel's Challenge.

### **Public Relations**

- Judi Callan stated that she hasn't heard from chair Lex Kessler regarding camp sponsorship. She is hoping to hear before next Council meeting. Katie Coppola will contact Lex.

### **Red Ribbon Week**

- Deb Aidala for Erica Gentile. Ready to go forward. Park has date open.
- \$2,739.84 budget for RRW. Last year money never came from Senator Leibell.
- They have found a lot of the supplies from previous years. Primrose has its stuff. They need to find the big banner.
- A district speaker is being looked into, not yet booked.

### **Reflections**

- Laura Sweig will meet with chairs next week.
- The theme is, "Beauty is..."
- Will promote Reflections this year.
- Last year two Somers kids went to Nationals.
- Judi asked about the possibility of posting the artwork on our website.

### **Website**

- Laura Sweig and Patti Calautti. Each school has one webmaster and one email person.
- If something is going to more than one school, send stuff to Patti or Laura.
- The website is for PTA events. Won't circulate other organizations' stuff.
- Please give specific content to website and email people.
- Please give plenty of time/notice to website and email people.
- Will send out a spreadsheet with all information soon.
- Web designers are being trained in online fill-in forms. Working to get responses to these forms to go to a spreadsheet.

Judi Callan informed attendees that the PTA banner and tablecloth are available for use at open houses, etc.

### V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24am.

Respectfully submitted:  
Gayle Mottola, Corresponding Secretary for  
Teresa Lombardi, Recording Secretary

PTA Unit Presidents' Reports took place after adjournment.