

Somers PTA Council Meeting Minutes: March 8th, 2010

Attendance: Judi Callan, Susan Taylor, Laura Sweig, Linda Graffitti, Gayle Mottola, Teresa Lombardi, Mary Ward, Julie Gorecki, Kathy Cucchiarella, Becky Williams, Kim Moros, Patti Calautti, Alexis Freiman, Katie Coppola, Christine Spencer, Kristen Iorizzo, Debbie Aidala, Lisa Immerblum, Linda Morgante

I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes – A motion is not needed to approve the minutes. The President asks for corrections or changes.

II. Treasurer's Report

A. Checking account balance = \$5,953.63 in bank account

III. Committee Reports

Council Executive Committee

- A. Meeting held on February 4th, 2010. The decision was made that this year's nominating committee will focus only on electing officers. The Council Executive Committee will appoint chairs. Council will encourage candidates to not have the Co-President positions. Vote took place and the following was approved:
- Eliminate Red Ribbon Committee at the district level-money already earmarked for Red Ribbon will be used for Red Ribbon next year at the unit level.
 - Health & Safety Committee renamed Wellness Committee
 - All fundraising under one umbrella renamed "Ways and Means Committee"
- B. Discussion took place to have Corresponding Secretary take over constant contact coordinator duties.
- C. Mandatory Council meeting in May- each year all committees must submit yearly recap report
- D. Debbie Aidala, Becky Williams and Carol Cirieco were elected to be the Nominating Committee.

Wellness Committee- see attached report submitted

Legislative Committee-see attached report submitted

B. Presidents Reports:

High School –Debbie Aidala

- HS Senior Fashion Show next week
- During the 8th grade orientation the PTSA will be promoted. Packets will be handed out.. Also adding a tour of the building.
- Internet Awareness Presentation on Monday March 22, 2010
- College Essay writing workshop in the works
- High School Musical this weekend

Middle School-Julie Gorecki

- Green Week is coming-working with Science teachers on recycling
- Working on forming the Nominating Committee
- Internet Awareness Presentation to be held on March 22, 2010 in SMS auditorium
- Working on 8th grade BBQ

- Staff Appreciation lunch currently being planned
- Time to address the By-Laws at SMS
- Authors Day on March 15,2010 at 8:45am –all are welcome

Somers Intermediate School–Kathy Cucchiarella

- Science Night on May 20th-hands on demonstrations
- Fourth Grade Colonial Day was a success
- Cookie Dough Sales were low this year
- Successful Note Card Fundraiser
- SIS Trail Day – April 10, 2010
- Helen Brady has been busy with Ala Carte order forms-water bottles with new sippie tops,lunch bags and lunch bots for sale on website-discussed sending this info to the High School via a newsletter and constant contact
- Books & Beyond was successful
- Nominating committee was formed
- Online annual giving campaign discussed

Primrose- Kristen Iorizzo and Becky Williams

- Nominating Committee formed
- Staff appreciation lunch being planned-may need volunteers
- Cough Dough sales down
- Family night at Kiwi scheduled for June 4th with a rain date of the last day of school

SEPTA- Lisa Immerblum

- Membership is down-possible cause could be our paperless initiative
- There is also a financial concern-funding structure cannot survive-possible solution is to increase fundraising. Younger schools (Primrose & SIS) take up most of the resources. Maybe bring SEPTA would need \$4000-\$5000 to survive, discussed putting this into a line item in the budget.
- Discussed a marketing campaign for membership via constant contact for SEPTA gifted & special needs students
- SEPTA delegates should be the contact people in each of the schools
- By Laws need review & updating-will form a nominating committee to bring in younger parents
- Discussion took place about the possibility of PTA absorbing SEPTA
- SEPTA reps to come to PTA meetings in each school

IV. New Business:

1. Virtual Lobby day is March 17th asking every PTA member to participate in the electronic legislative support campaign. The two issues being addressed are education funding and charter schools.

VI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m. Dr. Marien joined the meeting to discuss the budget.

Next meeting: April 13, 2010

Respectfully submitted: Teresa Lombardi, Recording Secretary

Report submitted by Lex Kessler:

Legislative Update - with the tremendous publicity of the R.I. teacher dismissals that have caught Obama's attention and made front line news, it seems there should be something said, although it appears that NY State PTA has no position as of yet.

Public Relations - I believe that Laura has found a way to have a click through for the Shop to Earn on the unit's emails but Laura will need to update our group on that status

Report Submitted by Rita Christensen :

Wellness Committee Update

The Wellness Committee has worked together to change the Somers Wellness Policy. An updated version has been approved by Dr Marien and will go before the board of ed sometime in March. SIS and SMS Wellness has made "nutrition info charts" that have been placed on the cafeteria tables for the month of March (Nutrition Month). The charts are meant to bring awareness of excess sugar that is in many snack products. SIS Wellness also had distributed "no junk food week" contracts for the children to sign and participate in. The group continues to work with Norma to try and incorporate local food when possible.

I will email your suggestion about a guest speaker to the group. I am trying to find a replacement for myself on the PTA council since my class schedule often conflicts with meetings. I will not be able to attend next weeks meeting. I will be in touch when I find a replacement.