

**Somers Middle School PTA  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
October 20th, 2011**

**Attendees:** Karen Collura, Carolyn Worsley, Kathy Cucchiarella, Linda Verderame, Patrice Graham, Kat Wiegand, Susette Acocella, Kim Moros, Laura Sweig, Janice Pirrotti, Linda Morgante, Lou-Ann Galibert, Kirstin Reynolds, Becky Williams, Maria Torre, Jennifer Maestri, Colleen Olifiers, Christine Adler

**Call to Order:** Becky called meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The September meeting minutes were accepted without changes

**Teacher Liaison Report/Kristin Reynolds:**

- Mrs. Reynolds has not been able to meet with teachers due to the Budget meetings. At next meeting will be able to make a join the PTA pitch to them and discuss mini-grants and reflections. Please bring any concerns or issues to her attention so she can address with the staff

**Presidents Report:**

- Proposed budget to come out on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The PTA has voiced its concern about the proposed class size increases.
- Please make every effort to attend the budget talks. The dates are posted on the websites. If you have something you feel strongly about you are urged to e-mail Dr. Blanch.
- Met with administration about what students can do at recess. We have limited grounds. Suggested cart of SMS appropriate games. Basketballs are on backorder. Suggested jump ropes, cam jams, wiffle balls, bases and benches for kids to talk. Discussed inviting parents to volunteer at lunch to chaperone or organize a game.
- 90%- 95% of students participated in mix it up day.
- Possible fundraisers discussed: Service oriented event, talent show, casino night and Teachers VS. teacher sport event.
- Attendance has been low for the Homework club run by Mr. Kealy for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They may open it up to 6<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Washington trip was discussed with administration. Touring company has been hired and process in now online. There are 285 in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class and so far 200 have expressed an interest. There are 3-5 students who may need financial help. The trip is now 2 nights and the cost \$600. Discussed option for next year if parents wanted to contribute to a fund to assist other students that are unable to attend due to financial constraints. Other idea was to fundraise for next year's trip. Possibly get the student council involved.
- Ann in the main office had a fire that destroyed her home. The PTA will start a collection. Linda Morgante volunteered to take up the collection.

**Treasurer Report**

- The balance in our account is \$48,393.81. We still need to pay for book fair.

## **Membership**

- As of October we have 363 members, 44 are staff.
- This year the PTA's are trying to get more staff involved. There will be a raffle for all teachers signed up with the prize being a \$100 to use in the classroom.

## **Red Ribbon**

- This year's theme is Hands in Hand, Let's take a Stand
- The Somers Substance Abuse Council donated 9 Barnes & Noble gift cards (\$10 each) for the winners of the "Hand Contest". They will be placed in the gift bags that are provided by our PTA.
- Hands were distributed but not too many were handed in.
- Volunteers needed to take decorations down.
- During the week: Mon: Wear Red, Tues: Jersey Day, Thur: Athletes from the high school to talk to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Need to speak to Mr. Getman about giving Red Ribbon one more chance next year.

## **Cultural Affairs**

- On November 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a travelling science show conducted by the Franklin Institute on the human body for the 7<sup>th</sup> graders. On May 21 the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will see a travelling science show on electricity. Still working on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. May possibly see something on the Holocaust.

## **Socials**

- 115 children attended the 8<sup>th</sup> grade social. We made \$350. The raffle was a great idea.
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade social October 28<sup>th</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup> grade social on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Fundraising**

- Pizza fundraiser made about 1500 in sales we get to keep about \$400. Thinking about a new fundraiser for next year. Please forward any ideas for next year to Jessica Goldberg our district chair or Angela Welsh. Additional ideas: Movie night with an international dinner.
- Deadline for the box tops contest is November 1st
- Clothing fundraiser is October 23 for 9-12:30 in the SMS lower lot. Laura will post flyer to website. Information will be distributed in the weekly e-mails for all schools. Working on a place where our teachers can leave donated goods on Friday.

## **Weekly Reminders/Constant Contact**

- Maria Torre was introduced as our webmaster.
- All flyers must be in pdf format and have president's approval.
- Please send graphics separately. It needs to be sized appropriately.
- Submit the write-up and it can be linked to a flyer.
- Constant contacts need to be to Maria by Sunday.

- Any fill able forms need to be submitted to the webmaster earlier.
- The shortcut to contact Maria is the blue umbrella on the SMS website.

### **SEPTA**

- There will be a coffee with Anna Maggio on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the high school
- Dr. Blanch made a visit to last months meeting
- Discussion took place about a social skills group called Spirit. Sparc would run the program. The PTA supports this initiative and SEPTA will take next steps to implement.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual magic show will take place on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Annual Golf outing fundraiser on May 1st
- Support Septa by becoming a member - form is on line

### **Visit for Mrs. Watkins**

- Students loved the raffle idea at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance.
- Mix it up day went well. All 3 grades participated. Students took risks and sat outside their table.
- Fire drills will be taking place. Evacuation drill coming up soon.
- Discussion took place about "handing out party invitations in the school". Mrs. Watkins thinking about having a coffee on this subject and other "sensitivity" topics. Decision made to have the coffee during the day instead of the evening.
- PTA thanked Mrs. Watkins for the communication that was sent about the Lincoln Hall incident.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:40 a.m.

Minutes recorded by Teresa Lombardi  
SMS PTA Recording Secretary