

POTTER ROAD PTO 5/13/09

1. Introduced everyone present
2. Approved minutes from the April PTO meeting
3. Reviewed new slate of officers for 2009-2010. Presidents – Cheryl Jones & Sarah Hofschire, Vice-Presidents – Nancy O’Connor & Kim Comatas, Treasurer – Maria McHugh, Secretaries – Jacqui Goldberg, Gayle Seletz, & Ingrid Kushinsky, Portuguese-speaking Liaison – to be determined. New slate of officers approved. Will begin offices in June 2009.
4. Treasurer’s Update (Alison Quackenbush) – Reviewed proposed budget for 2009-2010 school year. Went through the budget line by line. No major changes were proposed. Plan to be more organized about expectations for 5th grade fundraising and their costs. One change – we have funded a summer scene scholarship for one child in the past. In the past, the scholarship was able to fund registration fees for 10 children while Summer Scene provided scholarships for the camp. Summer Scene has stopped doing that and now the scholarship covers the camp for one child. The decision was made not to fund this scholarship for next year due to the fact that it helps only one child and without the principal’s fund next year, PTO money needs to fund other programs. However, we agreed to create take over funding a scholarship called the Caique Souza Memorial Award for Artistic Achievement. This will fund one class at the Danforth Museum School (\$180.) Ms. Iglesias has been funding this for the past 3 years through her “Angel Fund.” The Danforth matches it with a second class, so that two students receive the award each year. This is how it was described by our art teacher, Donna Maxwell, who made the request:

Since the terrible death of this beloved former student to domestic violence we have given one graduating boy and one girl the Caique Souza Memorial Award for Artistic Achievement. Caique was a talented and passionate artist. The first award was given in June, just 3 years ago, one month after the tragedy. The award is for a children’s class of their choice at the Danforth Museum School.
5. Principal search committee (Sarah Hofschire) – They have met twice to determine who they will interview. They will interview 8 candidates. They have to present the top 3 choices to the superintendent (not ranked) and the interim and incoming superintendents will make the decision. The goal is to name a new principal before the end of the school year.

6. Esta Rita Smith Scholarship (Sarah Hofschire for Jan Miller) - \$1000 will be awarded to Keefe Tech student William Cosme who will attend Umass. Amy LaPlante will chair the committee next year. There is an additional \$100 budgeted for gifts for other applicants. The membership agreed that we will not continue to do this going forward (after this year) as it is a nice gesture but really unnecessary. For this year, this expenditure totaled \$45.
7. Kindergarten Mentor Program (Gayle Seletz) – We look for supportive, seasoned parents to welcome, help and support incoming kindergarten families who are new to the community. It is helpful for new parents and cuts down on staff calls. The commitment is one phone call by end of June or July with your mentee to check in and offer assistance. Families will sign up to receive a mentor at kindergarten orientation. Contact Gayle Seletz to sign up to be a mentor.
8. Committee Chairs – Gayle Seletz – updated form for the email loop – if you are on the loop, you don't need to fill out the form.
9. Committee Chairs (Cheryl Jones) – we have a few openings: Parent handbook (you must have Publisher), School Play Coordinator (usually a 4th or 5th grade parent), Heather Bace and Jim Stockless will do Townwide PTO, co-chair for Box Tops, Marion Kelly will take photographs and do bulletin boards.
10. First Day Folders (Cheryl Jones) – many forms that go into the folders. We update everything, print everything, stuff folders. Events scheduled for next year: Multi-cultural dessert night - 9/11, School pictures – 9/14, Curriculum night K-2 - 9/23, 3-5 - 9/24, PTO meetings are second Wed, 9/9, 10/14, Pumpkin fair - 10/24, Book Fair - 11/16-11/20, Family Reading night - 11/19.
11. 5th grade fund-raising – seeking volunteers for next year
12. We will have 10 less permits next year than this year. This will impact evening events such as PTO meetings. Discussed possibility of holding PTO meetings at the high school which is usually open anyways.
13. Important End of Year Dates: Mulching day – 5/30 9am-2pm, bring wheelbarrows, rakes, gloves; Kindergarten show – 6/10 9:30am, End of Year Picnic - 6/16 6pm (raindate 6/17), Kindergarten Orientation - 6/15 9:30am, Last day of school - 6/19 for kindergartners, 6/22 at noon for 1-5th grade
14. Next PTO meeting 6/10 - Mrs. Maxwell will do an art show and reception

15. Lego League/Robotics (Jacqui Goldberg) – sign ups end 5/15, still in need of coaches, please contact Jacqui Goldberg

16. Fundraising Ideas for 2009-2010 (Nancy O'Connor) – publicize box tops (esp online shopping), each month highlight one of the ongoing fundraisers, maybe change gift wrap to a green/recycling fundraiser, Nstar energy saving lightbulbs, cookbook fundraiser, insider pages – site and you review local businesses, when you do a review – you get \$1.50 or \$.50 for a 3 week drive, online career sharing, selling your gold, raffle on off-auction years (someone would need to take that on)