

Potter Road PTO Minutes 12/16/09

1. Welcome and introductions – Cheryl Jones. Large turnout this time, great to see.
2. Vote on November meeting minutes – approved.
3. Principal's Report – Paula DelPrete
 - Dr. Hiersche, Superintendent of Schools, will be presenting the Framingham Public Schools Reorganization Plan proposal on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 to the School Committee. It will be broadcast on-line on the school department's website as well as cable access station. At this time, I cannot provide any details and all administrators have been asked to keep it under wraps until Dr. Hiersche makes his presentation. The school committee meeting will be held in the back gym at the High School at 7:30 PM. School Committee meetings are normally held at the King Administration building on Water Street on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month.
 - The Turkey Trot kicked off our season of giving. Over 200 cans of food were donated! Thanks to parent Matt Calder for being a good sport as our "turkey" – he trotted around the building twice, being followed by K-2 students first, then 3-5.
 - Update on communications from school to home – I intend to use the school website and Connect-Ed as much as possible for school to home communications in an effort to reduce paper. These methods will be used for upcoming events and the on-line calendar is updated daily. A survey on the usefulness of Connect-Ed from the School Council will be available hopefully sometime in March on Surveymonkey.
 - Update on building permits – Due to an administrative snafu, we had no permit for tonight's PTO meeting but the Lego League did have one, so that counts (all set). Potter Road appears to be "over" its allotted permits by 5, so we need to discuss piggybacking on other activities, where possible.
4. Guest Speaker – Brendan Ryan, Director of Food Services for the Framingham Public Schools
 - My philosophy is simple foods done simply. The food provided to students is not cookie-cutter, non-processed, includes whole-muscle chicken, etc.
 - When food items aren't available, menu items can change. Because of this, some items may only run once.
 - A new item being offered starting in January is broiled fish. I brought samples to tonight's meeting so you can try it, along with the nutrition sheet. It will be offered stand-alone as well as in a sandwich. I ordered about 2,000

lbs. of the fish at \$2/lb. My hope is, if you could “sell” it to your children after you try it yourselves, it will become a popular item.

- My vendor provides as much local produce as possible. We offer cut fruit or small pieces, just the right size for kids. We don’t offer canned vegetables, only frozen, and we offer salads at least twice a week. **NO FRIED FRENCH FRIES!**
- It’s all about portion control. We use an “offer vs. serve” method in the lunch line – this ensures children will eat what they take in an effort to reduce waste.
- We’re trying to minimize Styrofoam trays as much as possible, now offering Chinese take-out boxes, for example. We also have a pilot program using hard compartment trays at Wilson, McCarthy & Barbieri.
- Low balance cards will be coming home for on-line transactions, as a common concern from parents is not knowing their balances need to be replenished. Food allergies are associated with a child’s ID # as a note.
- Feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns.

5. Committee Check-Ins

- a. Book Fair – Tracy Lampl
 - Thanks to everyone for attending!
 - We turned a profit of \$2,087, earned less than \$1,000 last year. \$617.48 was the book profit.
 - A special acknowledgment to a Jewish Literacy volunteer who donated \$1,000!
 - The PTO would like to recognize Tracy Lampl and Kim Ludy for such a great job organizing the Book Fair this year and making it such a success!
- b. Box Tops Marketplace – Cheryl Jones for Cathy Molkenbur-Newman
 - Fundraising is going well; approximately \$300 raised so far.
- c. Community Outreach and Kids with a Cause (KWAC) – Katie Spring
 - We are extremely busy, thanks to all the participants.
 - Families in Need this semester – we’ve collected over 150 coats, we’ll have a final tally in the next couple of weeks.
 - Food Drive – our goal is to provide well-balanced meals in a package. We’ll have enough for over 900 meals. A special thank you to Stop & Shop for donating a \$25 gift card, which will help to supplement the meals.
 - Pajama Day will be held in February to celebrate Potter Road’s Pajama Drive for Pathways Shelter.

- A sing-a-long will be held at St. Patrick's Manor (a nursing home) on Central Street this Friday, where pinecone decorations and cards will be made and given to residents.
- d. Esta Rita Scholarship update – Cheryl Jones for Amy LaPlante
- Scholarship is \$1,000, awarded to a Potter Road School alumnus/alumna who goes to either Framingham High School or Keefe Vocational Tech.
 - Applications are due back to the High Schools in January.
- e. FEF Spelling Bee recap – Sarah Hofschire
- Potter Road didn't place this year but thanks to Ann Jeffris, Cheryl Mitcham and Ingrid Kushinsky for a job well done!
- f. Fundraising Update and Future Events – Nancy O'Connor
- BJ's - \$230 this year vs. \$180 last year vs. \$90 the prior year.
 - Stop & Shop – we earned \$363 by the end of November; the program goes through March
 - Target has a similar program to Stop & Shop; use your cards!
 - Another way to earn money for Potter Road – iGive, which is similar to Box Tops, where you shop on-line and automatically earn money for the school.
 - Square One artwork – our children's artwork will be printed on all kinds of items for purchase. Products will be available in the Spring.
 - Family Fun Day – permit issue. Stay tuned.
 - NStar – green lightbulbs sold; 100% return to the school.
 - Bags to School – clothing donations; get cash back based on weight of the bags
 - Picture Day
 - Zhu Zhu Pet raffle earned \$200!
 - Looking for ideas for the next BIG fundraiser.
- g. Hospitality – Gayle Seletz
- We have three events a year. Upcoming – Bus Driver Appreciation Brunch on Friday, February 12, 2010, to be held in the school library.
 - A sign-up sheet is being passed around at this meeting for brunch donations.
 - We especially need set up and clean up help. Thank you!
- h. Lego League – Jacqui Goldberg
- We had a daytime and evening celebration today recapping the great teams we had this year.

- This evening the models and teams were judged and awards were handed out. Three teams from Dunning also participated at the Potter Road celebration and some from Barbieri also came.
- i. Mini Grants – Sarah Hofschire
 - The grants are up to \$200 each; \$2,000 is allotted. Twenty-one requests were received.
 - Teachers will find out of their acceptance after the holidays.
 - j. Potter Road Play – Cheryl Jones
 - The players are just fourth & fifth graders.
 - We need a coordinator, preferably a fourth or fifth grade parent. If interested, please contact Cheryl Jones or Sarah Hofschire.
 - k. Recycling update – Cheryl Jones
 - Ink/toner recycling – stick to cartridges. Luke Fontano will manage the program and pack the cartridges up. Boxes will be available for parents to drop off.
 - Styrofoam Collection Day (Refoam It) on Saturday, January 9, 2010. Program turns out Styrofoam into blocks.
 - Add “Green” section to school website.
 - l. Townwide PTO – Sarah Hofschire
 - Townwide PTO is the parent body of all school PTOs. See Sarah Hofschire or Kim Comatas with questions.
 - Potter Road needs another rep!
 - Paula DelPrete will be speaking at the Townwide PTO meeting on Monday, January 25, 2010, at the Framingham Public Library.
6. Election Day coverage – Courtney Edman
 - Election Day is Tuesday, January 19, 2010. Popcorn chicken will be offered as the hot lunch.
 - Children will be eating in their classrooms that day. We have about 20 timeslots open for volunteers to help in the classrooms.
 - See Courtney Edman with questions or to volunteer. Thanks, Courtney!!
 7. Treasurer’s Report – Maria McHugh
 - Current budget handed out at this meeting. We have about \$44,000 to work with – it doesn’t get carried over from year to year, which means that we have more funds available to help out in other areas this year if needed.
 - This money is used for all the extracurricular and enrichment programs.

There is no PTO meeting in January. The next PTO meeting is Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7:15PM in the library. Our guest speakers will be teachers Tara Rufo and Kelly Walsh – they will talk to us about Potter Road’s Open Circle program.