

POTTER ROAD PTO MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

1. Introduction of the Board members
2. Principal's Report – Paula DelPrete
  - b. Went from 4 secretaries to 1 secretary. Lunch aides were cut – thanks to parent volunteers who have been assisting in the lunch room
  - c. Opening of school went well. As anticipated, there were transportation issues but everything is going more smoothly. Curriculum nights will be 9/28 for K-2 and 9/29 for 3-5. Curriculum night begins at 6:30pm. Principal DelPrete will be holding a “healthy snacks with the principal” meeting both nights from 6-6:30pm.
  - d. The handbook is available online in an effort to minimize costs. If you need a paper copy, contact the office
  - e. ConnectEd – tries to call around 6:30pm, it is important information that you should listen to and in the case of an emergency, it is the best way to reach people. If you do not want to be on the list, call the office and they will remove you.
  - f. School Council – board that serves as advisory committee to the principal especially regarding budgeting. There are 2 openings currently. School council meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 8-9am.
3. School Nurse – Maureen Archambault
  - a. Welcome back, will check for head lice – trying to be preventative
  - b. Does many screenings – height and weight – body mass index – dept of public health requires new screening because BMI puts you at risk
  - c. School needs wellness policy so will be working on that, this is state driven
  - d. Works with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, educating kids about healthy snacks – teach about food shopping;
  - e. Birthday Celebrations – should be non-edible treats or fruit
4. Open position on PTO Board – Portuguese liaison – please see Cheryl or Sarah if interested
5. School Busing Schools – town sending applications to schools for this week, Danielle Thorpe will be getting article on the fall Town Meeting agenda
6. Save our schools – Scott Estes (guest speaker) – We share common concern – in last 3 or 4 yr haven't been able to provide school committee with level funding, [www.framinghamsaveourschools.org](http://www.framinghamsaveourschools.org), usually \$20 million gap, lots of cuts have had to occur, has petition that would like to provide level service funding to the school committee so won't have to do further cuts which is directed towards board of selectman. Board of Selectman will begin to shape next year's budget soon; Town meeting is very important – need more parents at town meeting, have highlighted potential sources of revenue such as taxes at restaurants and hotels and having

municipal employees pay a larger percentage of their health insurance. Encouraged people to contact the Board of Selectman and to become involved in the town government

7. PTO – extracurriculars are funded by PTO and put together by teachers and parents for our children. There are many fun community events and extracurricular activities, if you are interested in helping out – there are sign ups
  - a. Book Fair – Family reading night is 11/17, book fair is week of 11/15 – you can buy books during the week and on family reading night; need volunteers to take orders during the week and to help on family reading night
  - b. Box Tops – Traci Walkup – there are coupons on the back of food products which should be clipped out and sent in with children; there will be a flyer in Friday folders, there is a collection box in the café for children; usually brings in around \$600/yr for the school
  - c. Brainstormers – Beverly Hugo - open to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders before school, academic competition club part of a national group, learn 5 different topics/yr dealing with science and social studies, take a month to learn about each topic, will start in 2 weeks
  - d. Creative Arts – Cindy Camuso – brings different arts groups into the school for all of the children to see, committee helps to plan and to determine which groups are invited
  - e. Community Outreach – Katie Spring – we give back to our environment by running school-wide coat and food drives; Kids with a Cause is an afterschool program 2x/month to teach kids the importance of giving back, open to K-5, may make some changes this year – lots of speakers educate the children, last year sent money to Haiti, made blankets, care packages for soldiers
  - f. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraising – Courtney Edman – 5<sup>th</sup> grade is a hallmark year, 3 field trips, choosing what to do to make year memorable – year book, class gift, water bottles, year end party, gifts to kids, class photo; need to raise funds to minimize out of pocket expenses for families; 12/8 – Family Fun Night – Books for Bingo – pizza, drinks, desserts
  - g. Fundraising – Nancy O'Connor - direct donation drive, holiday gift wrap, BJs renewals, Books for Bingo – weekday evening and people donate books (twice), spring fundraiser in place of auction, Stop & Shop, Target (need red card)
  - h. Hospitality – Gayle Seletz - 3 events/yr – welcome back teacher luncheon, bus driver appreciation breakfast, teacher appreciation in May – gathering helpers and contributors
  - i. Potter Road Email Loop – great way for staff and parents to communicate in timely manner about specifically school-related events – want parents to really pay attention to these emails so only focus on school-related issues
  - j. Landscaping – Heather Jones – need help with weeding, pruning, help once in fall and once in spring; big thing in spring is that we will re-mulch playground
  - k. Large Spring Fundraiser – Kim Comatas – PTO funds mulching along with Creative Arts, extracurriculars, etc., historically done auction that funds 2 yrs

of events, usually raises \$20K, looking for ideas for large spring fundraiser – ideas: golf outing, spelling bee

- l. Lego League – Jacqui Goldberg – need coaches for Lego League (gr. 1-3) & Robotics (gr 4-5) programs which will run in January; registration forms will be coming home in November
  - m. Multicultural Dessert night – 10/1 –everyone brings dessert from your culture, needs 6—8 parents to set up and break down, DJ comes 6:30-8:00pm
  - n. Pumpkin Fair – Cheryl Mitcham – 10/23 11am – 3pm, needs lots of helpers, volunteer your time, help plan, need volunteers for day of, looking for bouncehouse, grills
  - o. Recycling – Cheryl Jones - recycling in classrooms and cafeteria, will be selling “green” goods, educate about recycling at home; teachers set up garden, composting, big goal for the year is to develop system to have only 1 Friday folder/family which would really reduce paper
  - p. Summer Reading – Katie Spring – unified effort so all children kept track of books, hit over 5000 books, Wally will be coming to celebrate, celebrate literacy, 9/24 2pm – pencils and certificates will be given out, make kids feel good about themselves and as a community, need volunteers day of
8. Committees that need leadership – bulletin boards/photographer, townwide PTO (meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday and need a 3<sup>rd</sup> representative), Portuguese liaison
  9. Treasurer’s Report - Maria McHugh – Board’s goal is to fiscally responsibly spend money that we raise, pumpkin fair is 2<sup>nd</sup> largest fundraiser, expenses – creative arts program gets large part of the budget, budget is open to everyone, total income is \$24,500, expenses \$27,000; extracurricular activities will be charging a participation fee to pay teacher stipends and want everyone to get the most of the activities, you can apply for financial aid through Jill Coates or Karin Agte
  10. Thank Yous – Jen Mooney organized Election Day and Picture Day volunteers, Gayle Seletz organized Teach lunch, Kim Comatas organized Tea & Sympathy