

**PTO meeting minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 10, 2014**

**PTO Board/chairs attendance:** Adina Kurzman, Kristi Johnson, Cheryl Mitchum, Katherine Russo, Jacqui Goldberg, Lisa Gold, Carianne Steenbruggen, Robin Grossman, Gayle Seletz, Katie Spring, Chris Lewis, Heather Jones, Brenda DiGiacomo, Sarabeth Guptill, Lynne Lavini, Maura Cahn

**PRS teacher/administration:** Paula Delprette, Larry Wolpe, Ginny Hoelhein

**Administrator notes: Paula DelPrete**

- Paula DelPrete welcomes everyone and introduces Karen Agte who is translating.
- Paula DelPrete is starting her 6<sup>th</sup> year as principal. There are 508 students in Potter Road School. She was able to hire additional staff, which includes 2 special educators, special education assistant, ½ time math coach, sage teacher, music teacher, physical education teacher, and art teacher.
- By hiring this additional staff, it allows classroom teachers to collaborate once a week for 45 minutes. Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers meet on Tuesday afternoons and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade staff meet on Friday mornings. This gives them the opportunity to discuss curriculum with the coaches and administration.
- There is a new readers workshop with new reading and math units this year. There is a push for teachers to align with the common core.
- On top of that, every day each teacher has 45 minutes off Monday-Friday which gives them time to plan, speak to parents, or have meetings.
- The staff is using a “focusing on growth mindset this year.” Psychologist talks about instead of praising kids for being smart, you praise kids for their effort and trying and looking at things more positively. Giving a child praise for working on a

problem, even though they got the answer wrong is just as important.

- Tomorrow is picture day. (September 11)

### **Committee Check-Ins:**

- Cheryl introduces PTO board which consists of 2 vice presidents, 3 secretaries, and 1 treasurer.
- Discussion about committees. when each committee takes place, and how you can volunteer-sign ups.
- There are many different clubs at PRS who are run by parent volunteers.
- It is important to sign into the school loop to receive important information by email. It is important to keep information posted on the loop for school related topics only.
- Student directory sign up-gives permission to have students information in the directory.
- Families need to sign up every year. Directory gets paper printed.
- School is always looking for sponsors to advertise in directory in which over 400 families see the ad.
- Potter Road School has lots of Spirit wear clothing and have many competitions including spirit Fridays.
- Multicultural night is September 19th in café, There is DJ, and food which is donated by families. Try to stick to entrees , apps, etc. multicultural night is from 6:00 pm-8:00 pm.
- The Pumpkin fair is on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Lynne Lavini is heading up the fair this year
- Fair is Potter Road Schools largest fundraiser. It takes place throughout the Cafeteria, hallways, and gymnasium.. There are many games and prizes, food, and crafts.
- Fair runs for 4 hours and includes the whole community.
- Need 150 volunteers throughout the pumpkin fair.
- Book Fair takes place in November. This is run by Tracy Lampl. Kids can buy books during school hours

- Thursday night of that week is book fair. Pizza is sold for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade fundraising.
- In December there is books for bingo. This is also run for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser to support field trips.. Café is filled with bingo cards. When they get bingo they win a book of their choice.
- School fundraising also supports mini grants. Teachers can use a mini grant to purchase up to \$200 for anything to use in their classroom. Examples- 1<sup>st</sup> grade team got books and games for their Japan unit
- \$4000 PTO budget goes towards mini grants.
- Creative Arts is another program supported by the PTO
- Lisa Gold is running it this year
- There is a \$6000 budget for creative arts.
- Every grade has program. Kindergarten has aquarium. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has a weather man visit. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade goes to the Lexington symphony.
- The Summer reading celebration is coming up at the end of September. There will be entertainment and celebration of all the reading that was done over the summer
- All Supplies that the clubs use is financially supported by PTO
- PTO meetings take place every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month usually around 7:00 pm.
- There will be a guest speaker at every PTO meeting this year.
- Christina Lewis introduces BOKS program that will take place on Monday and Thursday mornings starting in October.
- Meeting comes to a close. Volunteer sign up sheets around café.

### **Guest Speaker:**

- Sandra L. Dupcak, PSY D discusses anxiety in children. She talks about different strategies to help your children gain control over their worries.
- She discusses 4 different strategies to use when dealing with an anxious child
- Takes questions and answers during the talk.