

Montgomery Middle School
PTA Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2009

Attendance: Anne Michaelson, Mollie Morgan, Michele Ender, Georgann Young, Valerie Lisowski, Holly Kotler, Paula Simpkins, Ana Santini, Rob Skibinski, Mary Ann Alger, Mary Bickel, Christine Ark, Jackie Carmon, Kathy Moubarak, Rania Elghazaly, Mrs. Kichura, Earl Kim, Karen Davis

Welcome

Student Activity Fund Mr. Skibinski, 5th & 6th Grade Advisor

- The Student Activity Fund is supported by the magazine sale and goes directly to the account which is then used to pay for the major events at LMS. Each year the Fund subsidizes both the 5th Grade Trip to Ellis Island & the 6th Grade Trip to The Museum of Natural History. Each trip costs about \$16,000 to take an entire grade to New York for the day.
- Typically we make at least \$10,000 from the magazine sales. This year we only made about \$6,700. Gertrude Hawk runs in the Spring but we only make between \$2,500 and \$4,000 on that fundraiser. This puts the school in a tough spot to subsidize both trips while doing their best NOT TO RAISE the family contribution portion of these trips beyond \$20. My goal is to keep the out of pocket cost for the parents to \$20 if possible. The Fund also helps fund: HERITAGE DAY, CME, and FIELD DAY and a possible assembly
- This year the magazine sale is \$6,000 short so to make up the funds the Student Activity fund is also selling Entertainment books.
- Selling Entertainment books makes \$15 per book. Purchasing from school costs \$5 less than ordering online. Holding pizza party contest, 3 winners per grade.
- The PTA asked for Mr. Richards to communicate to parents about student activity fund, what it is used for (NY trips, end of year party). Trip costs not covered by tax dollars.
- eBlast to go out regarding Entertainment book sale

Principal Report Mrs. Kichura

- Fun Fridays and Bookfair went well
- Children are excited about the garden
- Teachers need to be members of the PTA to apply for grants
- Children may wear costumes to school for Halloween parties; no parade

Yearbook Jackie Carmon

- Yearbook sales potentially a fundraising opportunity, changing to color yearbook
- Pre-orders are very helpful; availability can't be guaranteed if not pre-ordered.

- Working to be consistent with other schools on cost, will be set up on Paypal.
- Voted to charge a minimum of \$15/maximum \$20 on pre-orders. Cost later to be minimum \$20/maximum \$25.

By Laws Paula Simpkins

- Distributed summary of changes which are state or national changes vs. local changes
- Discussed possibility of offering family membership. For each person who becomes a voting member, PTA must pay \$3.50. Voted not to offer family membership.

Referendum Earl Kim

- Opened with asking for specific questions
- Why do new buildings need work?
- The 70 new parking spaces at Orchard Hill (why, where)?
- Referendum is all about education. If facilities needs are not met through the referendum, costs will come out of education funds.
- \$60 million in needs identified from needs assessment
- Level 1 needs of \$24 million
- Makes most sense to spread costs over the life of the projects; 15 year bond recommended. Reduces interest/transaction costs
- \$14 million will come from local property taxes. \$9.5 from state income taxes if referendum is passed. If not all \$24 million will come from local taxes.
- Want to take advantage of soft construction market, low interest rates
- If we act in December can begin summer 2010
- Trying to simplify message; however, more detail on website, including opportunity to ask questions and have answers posted
- Need strong voter turnout. 3 polling locations.
- Mold issues at LMS. Esp. bad in nurses office.
- Village needs systems connected so that if one boiler goes down entire building may still be heated. Also plan to address traffic issues. 2 special needs classrooms will be constructed.
- Real work at OHES is reconfiguring parking for safety and repaving. Net result will be additional parking spaces.
- Nov. 21 a tour will be held at UMS to point out issues there.

Budget Mary Ann Alger

- Have \$20,000 in cash but \$10,000 invoice from Scholastic
- Membership is down and dues have not been paid yet
- Created family and social acct. for activities that may generate a surplus (Fun Fridays)
- \$1156 was raised in individual members "rounding up" the dues from \$6 to \$10

Fundraising Anne Michaelson

- Should PTA do a community fundraiser to give back to the school community?
- Teachers polled by Mr. Richards; want laptops and cart (cart, router, printer, wiring jacks). Cost is \$27,000
- PTA budget covers assemblies
- Voted to open fund for community fundraiser
- Mary Bickel and Christine Ark—working on developing community events as fundraisers; potentially an event or comedy night in January. Check writing campaign in November. Family game night being considered. Need to coordinate with Village and not overlap.
- Bike-a-thon June 5.

Friend Finder Christine Ark

- Distribution November 2
- \$4,000 advertising revenue

Green Committee

- Sharon Howard working on composting

Innisbrook

- Probably \$4500-5000 in profit

Multi-cultural

- Tea October 27
- Meeting November 9

Reflections Karen Davis

- National PTA art contest, different theme each year, this year's theme is "Beauty Is..."
- The contest is open to all MMS Students. Details on Reflections will be posted on the PTA Website and can be found on www.pta.org as well.
- An announcement will be made, put in newsletter

Respectfully submitted,
Mollie Morgan
MMS Recording Secretary