

**STANLEY SCHOOL PTO MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, February 7, 2006**

Meeting began at 7:10 pm

President's Welcome: Reid welcomed all and explained that there was a translator available if needed. It was indicated that there was no need.

Secretary's Report: Read and accepted motion by Kathy Hersey, seconded by Orit Biran

Treasurers Report: Read and accepted motion by Kathy Hersey seconded by Brenda Neshe

**Updates:**

Super Sundaes: Kathy Hersey gave a big thank you to all volunteers and participants. It was a huge success and the children had fun! Estimating earnings of \$2000. Kathy will be emailing committee members with suggestions of improvements for next year - any feedback please let Kathy know. GREAT JOB KATHY!

Jen Murphy showed slides from the day!! We all ought to be in pictures!

Playground Equipment: Reggi explained that there were a number of initial steps which had to be done to see if plans for a new playground could move forward before she even could begin to call committee members. As of this week she received approval by the School Committee to move forward with fund-raising. The site plan showed that there is enough room to reach the proper depths requires for installation. Reggi is scheduled to meet with a playground designer this week. Reggi has requested that there be no rope pieces or rock climbing walls in the structure. Reggi has made contact with chairpersons from other successful committees who have had new playgrounds built and has received valuable ideas from them. There will be various pieces of the plan displayed in the school with the children then being able to vote on the ones they like best. Reggi has asked Margaret Donnelley for help with contacts in the city and she is looking for grant ideas from anyone in the Stanley community who may have contacts. Reggi is also looking for a catch phrase or name which would bring the project to life.

A question was asked if there were a time frame, Reggi said that 1 year would probably be realistic with installation over the summer of 2007. Reggi is hoping for a "community installation" which would help save thousands of dollars.

A question was asked if any funds were raised yet, Reggi replied "no"

Diversity Committee: Jamal explained that the first meeting was held January 19<sup>th</sup> with 5 people in attendance - "a humble start but we are on our way"

There were 4 issues which they wanted to address:

1. Activating a "family tree" for emergency contacts
2. Encourage payment of PTO dues
3. Bring back bilingual announcements by children
4. Introduce diversity workshops and programs for students, PTO, teachers and parents to help create a fun and safe way of opening up our diverse world

Future goals would be to present ways for parents with little opportunity or means to receive any help they may need to learn English, complete education etc. A Mission Statement has also been created and is available. Jamal asked that anyone who wanted to be involved in the committee

please come to the meetings which are to be held every 2 weeks. Next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 9. Jamal also asked for anyone who wanted to help with International night to please sign up. Jamal asked that the Diversity Committee be a standing committee to which Reid pointed out that it must be an amendment to the by-laws and asked that Jamal contact him to work it out. Pilar announced that she has finished the translating of the PTO By-laws (loud applause) and she would send them to Jen Murphy to be posted on the Website.

PTO Inventory: We are looking for items which have been purchased by the PTO for committee and school use but may be stored elsewhere. We are trying to prevent duplication. Kathy Hersey volunteered (as long as Eileen was present) to help organize a cleanup of the PTO closet. Need volunteers to help her.

Other Committees: Maria Jiminez introduced the International Night which is to take the place of Pasta night on March 11. They are looking to create a fun family night with food offered from different countries - multi-cultural entertainment may also be offered. Volunteers needed and more information will follow.

### **New Business:**

Ed Wack announced his resignation due to a new job opportunity in Washington. His speech was very moving and a tribute to our school and all that we as a community stand for.

Reid explained that a nominating committee was to be formed to accept nominations for a new Vice President. Collette Brenner agreed to be the chairperson for the nominating committee. The new VP will serve 2 years and will carryover 1 year with a new PTO board in September 2007.

Reid explained that a notice will go home explaining that there is a position open on the PTO board. The nominating committee will be in charge of collecting nominations and confirming who wants to run and then brings the names to the PTO membership for a vote. Nominations can also be accepted from the floor but Reid would rather not do it that way because he wants the committee to be able to do its job.

A discussion was held about bringing a new person aboard midway through the year. All agreed that by the time the nominations and vote were completed the timing would still coincide with regular PTO Board votes in May.

### **Principal Report:**

Dr. Rosenberg let us know how happy he was to be at Stanley. Ed's speech characterized Dr. Rosenberg's observations at Stanley.

Dr. Rosenberg was amazed by the drama events held by the children over the past week. It is amazing what the children accomplished at such young ages with their public speaking. These presentations included drama, art, social studies, science, writing, technology and public speaking.

Dr. Rosenberg assured us that bilingual announcements are still being done by child volunteers and will continue.

Stanley offers a very unique and safe tool with its Open Circle Program. This provides a safe environment within the classroom for children to discuss any fears or issues they may have.

They can talk about anything they wish with the opportunity for people to help them.

Dr. Rosenberg also let it be known that there is 6 or 7 Spanish speaking faculty to help and with 30 - 40 languages being spoken in the school the teachers try to foster support whenever they can.

Stanley teachers are working diligently on academics and practicing MCAS with great results and as parents this is what we should primarily want to see in our school.

Stanley faculty is also working hard on its Core Value program which helps our children to be successful adults and citizens who can give back to their community.

Dr. Rosenberg is available to anyone who needs him from 7:00 am - 4:00 pm during the week. He assures all of us that the teachers at Stanley are working 100% to help our children.

**Open Discussion:**

Lisa Wise presents an idea of forming a committee of volunteers who would help any new parents entering the Stanley community - sort of like the "buddy systems" offered at High School or Colleges. Dr Rosenberg likes the idea and suggests that with the Stanley Kindergarten screening on April 24 - 26 and visitation on May 10<sup>th</sup> senior parents could be available to offer support and answer questions newcomers may have.

Kathy Hersey explained a similar committee was at Fetch and was a huge success and a lot of fun. She would be glad to offer ideas. Reggi also suggests that a parent translation list be made to help any newcomers overcome language barriers. All great ideas which will hopefully be put into action before the next meeting.

A question was asked if Dr. U.T. Saunders was still working with the school parents. Dr. Parella will be scheduling more times and dates will be announced.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Kathy Hersey seconded by Brenda Neshe. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm