

Stanley School
Minutes of PTO Meeting
November 8, 2006

Meeting began at 7:10 p.m. with Welcome from Reid Lyons.

Minutes of prior meeting were accepted by Kathy Hersey, seconded by Collette Casey Brenner.

Treasurers report was read and accepted by Brenda Neshe, seconded by Kathy Hersey.

Safety

Officer Ann DiFrassio began our meeting with an overview on security of the building and recent concerning events happening at our middle and elementary schools in Waltham. There was a bomb threat @ the McDevitt School and the Bright School. Once the suspicion was confirmed Waltham Police along with Officer DiFrassio responded to both schools; the bomb squad was not called nor was State Police brought in. A team of officers and custodians swept the school to assure its safety. Recent events also was a robbery in the area of McDevitt and the school responded appropriately making sure all doors were locked and secure at the time.

Conversation moved onto the Safety of Stanley and Tom Lefort assured parents that by 9 a.m. all exterior doors are usually locked. Stanley is working with Waltham Police and other schools to maintain an updated crisis plan (which is located in each teachers room), they are working on color coding systems and making updates for 2006. Different police and training are now needed and different responses will be needed based on the problem. We at Stanley are very luck and should feel quite safe said Officer DiFrasso since our school maintains a very active crisis team who meets frequently with her. Discussions also included drills, evacuation plans, how not to frighten the children and where central meeting locations are.

Also brought up was the concern about the 3rd lane being designed for South Street. We would like a full stoplight as the blinking light does nothing to help any pedestrian crossing the street. Officer said that the plans were submitted but nothing is going on as of yet. If there are any further safety issues, she can be reached at 781-314-3589

Internet Safety – has been tabled due to its extensive content until a further full meeting can be pulled together.

Fundraisers- Parents have brought a concern forward about the perceived excessive amount of fundraising this year and in a short period of time. There seems to be pressure to win prizes and Funway Park is going on at the same time, which is confusing some parents. Collette acknowledged that perhaps parents were overwhelmed because this year is the big push for Funway Park and its not usually like this. There seems to be a fundraiser of sorts' 1x every month with 50-75% of parents trying to participate. Reid reiterated that we need more parental time involvement. However the PTO acknowledges the sensitive issue and we are working on it.

Playground Committee – Playground committee acknowledges the generosity of our city and the parents in Stanley. Susan McKinney has also noted that mix up and poor communication on the coordinating of PTO vs. Funway Fundraisers and also is making every effort to change this. However they wanted everyone to remember the Construction Site shopping day and movie night coming up. The entertainment books rose between 1500-1700\$. Ryan Merrill, a third grader sold 17 books entertainment books. Budget for playground has risen to 78k however we have received a 5k donation from Bank of America. At this point, we are just under 65K raised for the playground. We will also be using the contractor to construct and install the playground. We will be selling benches with Embassy Trophy donating the plaques to put on the bench. Benches will be 750\$.

Diversity Committee: November 1st was their last planning meeting. The language after school program is now going thru the process of being presented to school committee. They are working on a parent-mentoring program with phone trees and classroom teachers. They are encouraging everyone to participate in the upcoming holiday recipe book and will be sharing proceed with Funway Park. All entries are welcome and wanted in the holiday book. March 23rd is international night.

Fall Fundraiser – Meet targeted income budget of 6k. End of November orders should be in.

City Wide – went very well and those who went had a great time. Highlight was Principal for a day. The expected income budget was also met for that event as well.

Holiday Shopping – Eileen needs white bags for decorations and needs VOLUNTEERS for that week. She would also like someone to step up and learn the holiday shopping routine since next year is her last year.

Directory – gone to printers

Treasurer – Voted in is Kathy Hersey

Principal Report – Math coach working to provided “flash” card laminates for every classroom. Newsletter going well with 85 families and 1 email response acknowledging that they read and sent back the form. Tidbits will now be translated into Spanish as well. Pickup line is changing with a color and number coded system. They are working on this and taking their time to learn this new system but thinks it will help for pickup at 3 p.m. Priscilla Picardi’s workshop has 20 people participating. November 14th is principal’s coffee hour and Bus Evacuation drill. November 30th is early release day. December 12 is a school council meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Open Discussion: Non Profit exemption granted. Letter of determination discussed concerning solicitation. Lisa Wise said she can do Holiday Haircuts but needs haircutters to do it. Susan is working to get \$ for used printer cartridges; she will begin organizing.

Meeting adjourned by Collette Casey Brenner
Seconded by Kathy Hersey