

FARLEY PTO MINUTES
APRIL 8TH, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Malinda Brozek, Mary Peter, Polly Cox, Marcy Cassidy, Donna Doel, Cheryl Hishmeh, John Whithorn, Allison Kaufman (grade 4), Shelly Keller, Liz Pettit, Wendy Surface, Carolyn Ireland, Terri Steinman, Jane Sanderson, Lisa Walton

CALL TO ORDER:

Malinda Brozek, President, called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The president asked if there was a motion to approve the March PTO Minutes. Shelly Keller motioned to approve and Wendy Surface seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mrs. Cassidy introduced John Whithorn, Early Childhood Supervisor for the preschool. He, or a representative, will be attending PTO meetings from now on. The preschool would like to become an active part in the PTO, including fundraisers, school activities and programs. Mr. Whithorn will speak more about this following Mrs. Cassidy's report.

Farley is done with State Assessments. Mrs. Cassidy said the scores look great, but we do not know our final scores just yet. They should be reported to us soon.

Farley is beginning some improvements to the school grounds. Fencing is going up in the back of the school. There has been some burning done in preparation of planting which will be done by Westar Energy. Mr. Loveless, representative from Westar, came and spoke to some of the students about the burning, passed around seeds and talked about planting and fertilizer. Planting will begin soon and will include butterfly gardens and a worm compost.

The bricks for the walkways between the buildings have been approved.

Kindergarten Roundup is tomorrow. There are a lot of kids signed up. The theme is "Forest." There are trees and stuffed foxes in the hallways. Students made a lot of artwork which lines the hallways. The roundup kids will get a Farley T-shirt to wear over the summer to get them excited about coming to school! Set up has begun and will continue tonight.

Farley Fitness Day is scheduled for May 21st. A rain date has been set for May 24th. The talent show will be on May 25th. The P.E. teachers are organizing the games and activities. Teachers will be escorting their students to each of the activities. They would like the PTO to get parent volunteers to help run the games.

Concerning the construction, there have been several questions regarding the signs stating, "Road Closed - Local Traffic Only." Are Farley families considered local traffic? Mrs. Cassidy said that according to the Sheriff, we are considered local traffic. There has been one street in particular where the residents have been yelling at passing cars,

throwing balls, etc. This is also a concern has Farley will be holding summer school this year.

Mary Peter said she heard something about Auburn-Washburn cutting the budget for school buses. Auburn-Washburn may not bus students who live within 2 ½ miles of the school. This is something the district is considering. Many members of the PTO expressed their concerns regarding the pick-up and drop-off area of the school. It is already congested with the number of parents dropping off or picking up their children. No one can imagine how this would be handled if over half of the school would be driven to and from school.

Mrs. Cassidy stated that Auburn-Washburn will be less impacted than most of the districts in the state. The Auburn-Washburn district may be putting together focus groups to discuss the budget. There is a survey on the 437 website for parents and teachers. Anyone interested in the budget is encouraged to go online and take this survey.

EARLY CHILDHOOD/PRESCHOOL:

John Whithorn, Early Childhood Supervisor, introduced himself. The preschool is located in the North wing of the school. They have 70 students who range in age from 3 to 5 years. They also work with children who may have difficulties before entering Kindergarten. Some students are disabled. The Early Childhood program has 170 students and 20 staff members in the district.

He indicated that they would like to be a part of the PTO. They would like to have T-shirts, attend activities and be involved in fundraising. They have wanted to be a part of the PTO this year, but were not quite prepared until now. From now on, a representative from the Early Childhood center will attend PTO meetings. They are going to talk to their parents about getting a parent representative as well.

They are excited to be a part of the PTO. They feel that they are a part of Farley Elementary and not a separate "school" within the same building. Mr. Whithorn would like to have the younger students involved with the grade school students. The older students could be peer models for the preschool.

TEACHER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Kaufman stated that she did not have any complaints from teachers this month to bring to the PTO meeting.

Mrs. McGhee said there was a problem with the winner of her teacher experience. The auction was for an outing to see the Harlem Globetrotters. The child who won got sick and could not go, so Mrs. McGhee had to take someone else. Mrs. Kaufman asked the PTO what they think Mrs. McGhee could do to make it up to the student. After some discussion, the consensus was that any effort made on her part to acknowledge the child would probably be appreciated. Even a trip to the movies or McDonald's would most likely be appreciated.

Mrs. Kaufman announced that this would be her last meeting. She will not be able to attend next month as she and her husband are moving. She will not be at Farley next year. She assured everyone she will find someone to replace her at the PTO meetings.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mary Peter presented the updated financial report. She stated that she still hasn't received requests for grade level money. Mrs. Kaufman said she has sent many e-mails to remind teachers. Mary again stated the money must be spent by May 1st and that the fiscal year ends May 31st. She knows that some of the teachers have looked into ordering through the office. She will ask Secretary Mary Tiernan for an update.

She reminds the teachers not to turn in special requests until the grade level money has been spent.

Also, Farley received a donation of \$50.00 from Hills Pet Nutrition. This was sent to us on behalf of a parent or relative of a student who volunteered their time at the school.

The Scholastic Book Fair money went through the PTO account. By doing this, no sales tax was charged. A check for \$1392.29 was written to the library as this was the amount the book fair raised. The money will be used to purchase books, etc. for the library.

Mary again reminded us that our financial records will need to be audited at the end of year. Other schools have had this service donated or paid a CPA to have this done. If anyone knows someone who would volunteer their time, or give us a discount, please let the PTO know as soon as possible.

There is still a small amount of Foxtrot money trickling in; however, most has been collected. We received a check from Wendy's for \$272.04 for our fundraiser night. Mary has not yet calculated how much we will receive from the latest deadline for Box Tops. This will be done very soon.

Farley students collected non-perishable food items for the "Final 4 Food Frenzy." Mary stated she did not know exactly how much was collected. She would like a volunteer to remove the Campbell's For Education labels before the goods are donated.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Malinda Brozek informed the members that the Executive Board had met the previous week to discuss how to spend the money earned during this year's fundraisers. The Board had agreed to keep a minimum balance of \$5,000 in our account to carry over to the following year. This amount was agreed upon largely due to the budget cuts which may come next school year. This should also provide us with enough money in case an emergency arises.

It was determined that the PTO earned approximately \$18,000 from its fundraising efforts. \$5000 of this will be kept in the account leaving us with \$13,000 to spend. The following is an outline of how the money could be spent:

- The PTO is looking to purchase 5 Smart Boards which will total approximately \$8500.
- Secretary Mary Tiernan is looking into costs of a book binder for the workroom. Prices range from approximately \$200 to \$10,000. The PTO is looking for a book binder closer to the \$200 range.
- The Executive Board discussed purchasing many new die cuts for the workroom. This would benefit teachers, students and parents. We have allotted

approximately \$1,000 towards the purchase of new die cuts; however this may be a high estimate. We are also looking into having a die cut made of the Farley Elementary logo.

- Carolyn Ireland donated a helium tank to the school. It will cost approximately \$125 to fix the tank and get it into a program much like the one used for propane tanks. It would cost about \$200-\$300 to purchase a new helium tank. The tanks cost approximately \$40 to fill.
- The school needs coolers for field trips. Coolers can be borrowed from the Auburn-Washburn district; however they are not in good shape. We would like to purchase new ones for all of the Farley teachers to use during field trips.
- Another big purchase being considered is for an ice machine. This would benefit teachers, students and the many people who visit the building throughout the year. Secretary Mary Tiernan is going to check with someone in the district to see if they have one we could use. We have put aside \$2000 for this, but don't really know how much this will cost.

Teri Steinman asked if the district is going to put in soccer and baseball fields. She had heard that Ken Berry had donated a baseball diamond to one of the other schools. Mrs. Cassidy is going to check into this. Everything regarding the fields has been on hold.

Mrs. Kaufman asked how the Smart Boards will be distributed. Mrs. Cassidy said that she is going to try to purchase 4 Smart Boards with her capital outlay money. The PTO is planning to purchase 5. We will do our best to try to get at least one more for each grade level.

Malinda wanted to know if the members thought we should purchase another Smart Board instead of an ice machine. Mrs. Cassidy feels that an ice machine would really benefit the school – teachers, students and would be helpful when we have visitors in the building. She also feels that the distribution of the Smart Boards is going to be uneven anyway, so it shouldn't weigh too heavily on the decision for an ice machine.

Mrs. Cassidy wanted to discuss how the members thought the Smart Boards should be distributed. Cheryl Hishmeh feels that the Smart Boards should go to the upper grade levels first, since they will need to be familiar with them when they go to middle school. Mrs. Kaufman stated that there are some teachers who don't really want one because they are not comfortable with the technology. Mrs. Cassidy said that could be resolved by moving some teachers around.

Carolyn Ireland asked about the suggestion made several months ago for a trashcan outside the school entrance. This was to be paid for with the school's money. Mrs. Cassidy said that she would check into it.

Shelly Keller motioned to approve the proposed spending. Liz Pettit seconded the motion. The members voted. Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SPIRIT WEAR:

Shelly Keller reported on progress regarding the t-shirt contest. The committee spoke to the 5th graders and gave instructions on submitting designs for the contest. They will be given approximately 1 week to come up with their designs. They will need to be

turned in Monday, April 12th. Four 6th graders will help the committee narrow down the entries. Then the finalists' designs will be displayed for the whole school to see. The school will then vote on their favorite design.

GREEN TEAM:

Carolyn Ireland stated that the bulletin board for April is up. She would also like to say thanks to Mrs. Hillis' 6th grade class for taking a big part in the recycling program.

6th GRADE CELEBRATION:

Liz Pettit is filling in for Gina Anderson. Liz reports that instead of Fantastic Friday, the celebration will be called Fantabulous Friday. There is another group who uses the term Fantastic Friday. Now the celebration will only be 2 hours. It will begin at 4:00p.m. and end at 6:00p.m. The t-shirts should be in next week. The 6th graders will be getting their picture taken with Mr. and Mrs. Farley next week as well. Volunteers will be Mary Roth and Karen Meenen. Please contact Gina Anderson or Liz Pettit if you would like to volunteer.

Malinda stated that Yona Dunnaway could really use some help for Kindergarten Roundup after school today. If anyone can stay, it would be appreciated.

TEACHER APPRECIATION:

Lisa Walton is in charge of Teacher Appreciation Day. The PTO will be in charge of "Thanks-A-Latte" which will provide a coffee bar for faculty to enjoy. We are also looking into ordering coffee mugs with the Farley logo for teachers. PT's will be delivering the coffee and snacks. Mrs. Cassidy is still planning something for Teacher Appreciation Day, but does not know what day it will be.

May 3rd, which is a Monday, there will be no school. Teacher Appreciation will run from Tuesday, May 4th through Friday, May 7th. Lisa will get in contact with PT's.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

There are four or five things on the supply lists that her committee is purchasing. She says this will save parents money.

Malinda asked if the school supply amounts had been padded and she stated that they were.

Cheryl indicated that checks will need to be written to Innisbrook. If you order online, you will want to have the supplies sent to the school. It will cost you more in shipping and handling if you decide to have the supplies sent to your house.

Cheryl Hishmeh suggested that perhaps we could have reusable bags with the Farley logo printed on them. She also thought maybe we could use these bags to put the school supplies in.

She stated that she would like to see the committee order all of the school's supplies, organize and distribute them all to save parents money. If you would like to be a part of the committee, please get in contact with her.

NEXT YEAR'S PTO NOMINATIONS:

Donna Doel presented the slate for next year's PTO members. The list is:

President - Donna Doel

Vice President -open

Treasurer – Mary Peter (position is for 2 years)

Secretary – Lisa Walton

Cheryl Hishmeh – Member at Large

Donna has sent out a form for volunteers for next year. If you would like to be on the PTO Board or would like to chair or co-chair a committee position, please contact her ASAP.

Joan Sutton will be a new Farley parent next year and would love to be on the PTO Board. Donna is passing this along in case there is anyone who would like to serve, but just hasn't made it known yet.

Mrs. Cassidy stated that Jennifer Kidd, who works with the Junior League, may also be interested. She will try to contact Jennifer to find out.

Polly Cox wanted to remind everyone that PTO Board positions (especially President and Vice President) can also be co-chaired. Duties can be divided between the two individuals if neither one has the time to devote to the positions fully.

The PTO Board members will have one meeting during the summer and then start back up again in August when school is back in session.

Our next meeting will be May 13th, 2010 and will be held in the evening at 6:15p.m. We will be voting for new Board members at that time, so please plan to attend.

Mrs. Cassidy will be doing a recap of the year's activities. Malinda Brozek will be doing a recap of the PTO's activities for the year, then hand it over to Donna Doel to talk about what she sees happening for the PTO next school year.

Malinda stated that being President has been a lot of work, but definitely worth it. She hopes to see as many or more volunteers next year to continue the work we have started.

Meeting adjourned.