

FARLEY PTO MINUTES JANUARY 14TH, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

Malinda Brozek, President, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Malinda Brozek, Mary Peter, Polly Cox, Marcy Cassidy, Donna Doel, Liz Pettit, Chris Driggers, Gina Anderson, Terri Steinman, Lori Hutchinson, Carolyn Ireland, Wendy Surface, Amy Gilliland, Barbara Petersen (grade 1), Allison Kaufman (grade 4), Jenny Lang (grade 5), Cheryl Hishmeh

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None of the members present read the minutes which are posted on the Farley website. The November minutes were not approved in December. Therefore, we will approve the November and December minutes at our February PTO meeting. Mrs. Kaufman asked to have a copy of the minutes e-mailed to her each month which she will then forward to the other teachers.

BOOK FAIR: Amy Gilliland reported on the upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. Their campaign this year is the "Book Fair Diner; All You Can Read. The fair will be held in the school's library from February 9th through the 11th. Volunteers will be needed on the 9th from 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m., the 10th from 8:00a.m.-8:00p.m. and on the 11th from 8:00a.m.-6:00p.m. broken into shifts (including two hours to breakdown and clean up). Two volunteers per shift are needed. In addition, Farley will participate in One For Books. The program will run from January 19th through February 5th. Scholastic matches the monetary donations schools generate, with a donation of up to one million books to three national non-profit organizations dedicated to helping kids and families in need: Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc., the National Center for Family Literacy, and the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. There will be a Pie-In-The-Face contest to raise money. Several teachers have volunteered to be targets, including Principal Cassidy, who will have a pie thrown at her if the school manages to raise \$1000.00 towards the program. There will be a chart to show the school's progress. In conjunction, the art teacher, Mrs. Ash is helping students participate in a bookmark contest.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mrs. Cassidy stated the older kids are participating in early assessment. The actual State Assessment Tests are set. Look for the dates in upcoming newsletters from your child's teacher.

Snow removal on the school grounds has been slow. The snow equipment is apparently too heavy for the playground. She also stated there are five snow days built into the school year. School days can be added if needed, or minutes could be added to the end of days to make up time. The last day of school is scheduled as a make up day for snow days.

She is looking forward to the many fun events scheduled for the rest of the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mary Peter presented the report. Innisbrook still owes our school \$1000.00 from internet sales. The first check from the Box Tops program has been deposited. The fourth grade has combined their faculty request money to make a purchase.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Malinda has been corresponding with Skate Away. She was told that we would have to prepay for 60 skaters. Since this would be our first event, it was suggested that we invite the entire school, however, several of the board and members present had concern for the safety of younger students skating with older children. It was decided that it would be best to split the school into groups of Kindergarten through 3rd grade and 4th through 6th grade. Malinda will attempt to book the skating rink on Thursday, April 8th and Thursday, April 29th.

It was decided that the Wendy's fundraiser night would be in March on the 3rd, 8th or 9th. The school will receive 10% of all sales during the promotional hours.

Because of Parent-Teacher Conferences in February, our next PTO meeting will need to be held on an earlier date. The next meeting will be February 4th at 2:15p.m. In March and April, the meetings will be at 2:15p.m. Our last meeting will be on May 13th at 6:15p.m. This will be our end of the year wrap-up and we will be voting for new PTO officers. The election nominating committee will be formed in March. The slate of officers will be presented in April and then voted on in May.

TEACHER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Kaufman passed around many thank you notes from the teachers expressing their gratitude for the monetary holiday gifts from the PTO. She asked for a clarification regarding teacher's requests. Teachers are allowed to submit requests for supplies directly to the PTO and will be reviewed by the board based on our budget. Mrs. Kaufman stated that many of the teachers would willingly give up recognition during Teacher's Appreciation Week in order to buy more supplies.

She requested a few more copies of the Foxtrot Newsletter be available in the office. She stated that specials teachers would like a copy, too. Malinda explained that due to budget constraints, we have only been printing as many as we need because colored paper has been in short supply. Of course, the newsletter could be printed on white paper, or the PTO could pay for colored paper. She reminded everyone that the newsletter is available to read on the Farley Elementary website. Extra copies will be made to accommodate the requests.

Mrs. Cassidy stated that with the proposed cuts in next year's budget, schools will be working with budgets similar to the 1998-1999 school years. This will be difficult because our schools have grown so much. Parents interested in this subject are invited to a meeting this evening at W.R. Middle School to discuss the Auburn-Washburn budget.

Mrs. Kaufman relayed information regarding the Foxtrot decorating committee using the large rolls of paper in the workroom to construct a tent in the entrance of the school on the night of the dance. She has been asked to see if the PTO could pay to replace the rolls of paper. It was discussed among the members and suggested that we may need to skip the tent for this year's fundraiser.

Mrs. Kaufman asked teachers to come up with ideas for the Foxtrot auction. Several teachers have already submitted some great suggestions. A popular suggestion is reserving parking spots for parents on party days or concerts. A suggestion was made to have one reserved spot for staff and one reserved spot for a parent for one year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mary Peter gave a report on Box Tops. February 28th is the next deadline. She asked parents to please clip them neatly because the extra paper or cardboard costs us more to ship to the Box Top program. Also, please send them in timely, because they do have expiration dates. The top three classes collecting Box Tops will get prizes. Currently, Mrs. Stitts' class is in first place.

Carolyn Ireland reported that envelopes for recycling homework are still in the works. It will not be possible to laminate the envelopes, but they will be reinforced with tape along the edges. There has been trouble getting the envelopes. The cost is around \$92.00 to \$95.00. She posed the question, if the cost is not approved, would it be possible to have the PTO pay for half? They will be coming home with our children as soon as possible. As of this date, we still do not have a paper recycling bin from the county, however they are working with us and we will have one soon. We are still waiting for concrete slabs to be poured for the bins to rest on.

Malinda stated that Shelly Keller and Terri Steinman are in charge of Spirit Wear and will be holding contests for new designs.

Malinda reported that the Community Service committee has not had a chance to meet. It was suggested that possibly pop tabs would be a good project. They had discussed doing a canned food drive, however, the library held one earlier this year.

Malinda stated that the PTO would be paying for dinner during the next Parent-Teacher conferences. This time, a taco bar will be set up.

Carolyn Ireland asked about a banking program for the students. Amy Vondemkamp is asking banks to sponsor game rooms for the Foxtrot. Malinda stated that perhaps we could work with one of the banks to get a program started. Traditionally, the elementary schools have used Educational Credit Union.

Donna Doel reported on the upcoming Foxtrot dance fundraiser. There are going to be 10 games. Pizza/food will be located in the cafeteria. The dance will be held in the gym. The photo booth will also be located in the gym. There will be two entrances; the front entrance and the door closer to the cafeteria/gym. The silent auction tables will be located in the hallways off to the side. It is still being decided where to set up the games. It was suggested that possibly some would be held in the 4th grade rooms, since they are located towards the front of the school.

A volunteer form will be sent home towards the beginning of February for parents to sign up to work shifts the night of the dance. Parents will also be asked for donations for pop, cakes, cookies, etc. for the games and the Sweet Treat Trot. It is possible that high school students may be volunteering to help that night.

Concerning the auctions, it was again stated that banks are going to be contacted to possibly donate or sponsor game rooms. The cost of the D.J. is going to be \$200.00 and the photo booth is around \$300.00. It would really be great if those could be

underwritten. The photo booth will cost about \$1.00 for a strip of pictures. A slogan such as, "First Annual Farley Foxtrot," will be printed on the strip as well. Donna indicated that solicitation letters on letterhead are available for pick up in the office.

Themes will soon be chosen for the class baskets. Deadline for items is February 19th. It is the committee's goal to be done with everything one week before the dance.

She reported that the Beauty School cannot have students volunteer to the work in the Spa Room, but they are donating gift certificates.

She asked that if any Farley parents have their own business, or know anyone with a business this would be a great opportunity for them to donate items, time or services. All sponsors will be listed in the Auburn-Washburn District newsletter. A list of donations, services and baskets will be sent home with students before the Foxtrot for everyone to look over to decide what they would like to bid on.

She reiterated that the committee is still getting auction items, services and ideas from teachers. She believes the Foxtrot is going to be a great way to get to know our community and other Farley parents.

Wendy Surface stated that families will be asked to pay for wristbands ahead of time for the dance and food. The wristbands will be sent home about 2 days before the dance. Wristbands will be available at the door; however, they prefer them to be purchased ahead of time to reduce the amount of money that would need to be handled the night of the fundraiser.

Mrs. Kaufman asked for volunteer forms for the teachers as well. Many of them would love to help out that night.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 4th, 2010 at 2:15p.m. Meeting adjourned.