

FARLEY PTO MINUTES
MARCH 11TH, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Malinda Brozek, Mary Peter, Polly Cox, Marcy Cassidy, Donna Doel, Allison Kaufman (grade 4), Erica Allen, Student Teacher, Shelly Keller, Liz Pettit, Terri Steinman, Yona Dunnaway, Juli Voigt, Jane Sanderson, Heather Jani (grade 4)

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 February PTO Minutes. Shelly Keller motioned to approve and Liz Pettit seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mrs. Cassidy stated that the Foxtrot was, "awesome!" Dr. Dietrich came to the fundraiser and was, "blown away." She said it was possibly the best she's ever been to.

Students are almost finished with the reading State Assessments. This year the tests were all taken on computers. The students have done exceedingly well. Almost all students' test scores were up from last year. Thank you to the teachers who did a great job preparing our students for testing.

Mrs. Cassidy introduced Erica Allen who is a student teacher in 4th grade. She started in 2nd grade with Mrs. Poling and has been a wonderful asset to our school.

Within a few weeks, Westar will be working on the school's garden areas. They will begin with some burning and then start working on planting.

The exterior brick of the building has been showing some white patches. Mrs. Cassidy said that this is caused by oxidation. Plans to fix the problem have already been made.

Regarding Farley's recycling program, the 6th grade has really taken it over. Malinda stated that Carolyn Ireland would like to say thank you to everyone who has sent in printer cartridges. Farley was able to turn in 177 cartridges. The amount of money we will receive from the cartridges is unknown at this time. Carolyn has agreed to be Coordinator for the Green Team again next year.

Mrs. Cassidy said she feels the school is really coming together. There is a real sense of community, especially after the Foxtrot.

Kindergarten Roundup is coming up soon. It will be April 9th, with a morning and afternoon session. Farley is expecting about 45-50 kids.

Regarding 6th grade recognition, Mrs. Cassidy said the district does not want the celebration to go overboard with limousines, etc. Farley will be having a traditional recognition ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Farley will be speaking to the 6th graders. The students will be having lunch with their parents, possibly grilling hot dogs. The committee will check with Hyvee to see if they would be willing to donate the hot dogs or other food. The students will walk across the stage and receive a certificate. Later, there will be time for signing autographs in their yearbooks and cookies and punch. There will be a Power Point presentation and each student will get a copy of the pictures to keep.

Plans have also been made for Fantastic Friday, which will be from 4:00p.m. to 7:00p.m., May 14th. This will be a fun night, at the school, for the students and there will be pizza, games and a DJ.

Students will be getting class of 2016 t-shirts to wear for their class picture. A copy of this picture will be given back to the school as a donation from the photographer. It is their hope to take this picture the day before their 6th grade field trip in April (4-14). They also plan for the 6th graders to wear their class t-shirts on the field trip on April 15th as well.

The ceremony will just be for family. There is not enough room for the whole school to attend. Mrs. Cassidy will be awarding Good Neighbor Awards. Two students from each class will be nominated for the awards. This is not based on academics.

Malinda asked Mrs. Cassidy if there will be four 6th grade teachers next year since fifth grade is so large. Mrs. Cassidy stated that it will depend on budget, but her goal would be to have a 4th 6th grade teacher. Teachers may have to be moved around to accommodate larger classes.

Malinda asked if Mrs. Cassidy could reiterate her policy on requesting teachers. She stated that she does not take requests, however, if parents have a history with a certain teachers, she would ask that parents put their concerns in writing and Mrs. Cassidy will discuss it with you.

TEACHER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Kaufman presented questions from the teachers. The teachers want to know who the winners are for the teacher experiences auctioned off at the Foxtrot. Amy Vondemkamp is in charge of the auctions and should have a list. Shelly Keller has been helping Amy and will get with her to try to get the information to the teachers soon. Mrs. Cassidy said there was some confusion with a couple of the auctions. She is trying to address the problems. She stated that perhaps her office staff could help.

Mrs. Kaufman asked when the grade level money needs to be spent. Mary Peter stated that she was sure that it stated in the original letter to the teachers about the money, that it should be spent before May 1st, 2010. This money should be spent before making requests for items. Mrs. Kaufman wanted to know if the preschool would be receiving money from the PTO. The preschool is not really a part of Farley Elementary and, as such, would not receive money from our PTO. The preschool has its own budget separate from Farley Elementary. Students attending the preschool do not necessarily attend Farley Elementary when they begin Kindergarten. The preschool did not participate in the Innisbrook or Foxtrot fundraisers.

It was suggested that perhaps the preschool could have its own fundraiser. Mrs. Cassidy said that she would talk to John Whithorn, Early Childhood Supervisor for the preschool.

Mrs. Kaufman listed several items from teacher's wish lists. Some of the items include: drawing boards for the art room, Smart Boards, water filter/drinking water, an ice machine, die cuts, music, computer software, an I-pod, etc.

Malinda stated that the PTO should have a special meeting to discuss how money is going to be spent. It would be best for the PTO if teachers could submit requests, perhaps with a form supplied by the PTO, listing specific information, cost, picture, etc.

Again, grade level money must be spent first. Mrs. Cassidy suggested looking to see what our district has to offer. There may be items we could borrow from other schools instead of buying. She stated the school will be receiving Capital Outlay money from the increased mill levy taxes. Farley Elementary has approximately \$8000.00 to spend on our building. She will try to work out purchases with the teachers before they begin submitting requests from the PTO.

Mary Peter stated that at Jay Shideler, there were certain rules regarding the types of items that can be requested, for example: cannot be consumable, cannot be organizational items for the teacher, must benefit the students, etc. Shelly Keller, who is a former Indian Hills PTO Board Member, stated that she would try to get a copy of the guidelines from Indian Hills Elementary. Mary stated that the teachers need to know that items purchased with the grade level money or special requests, need to stay with the school if the teacher was to leave, i.e. a radio, flashcards, etc.

The PTO will come up with a form for requests. Mary Peter asked if the teachers have some confusion about how to spend their grade level money. Do they know they can spend it now? She stated that she has only received requests from 5 of the grade levels for reimbursement. She would like to inform the teachers that if the money is not spent by May 1st, the money will go back into the PTO's general fund. The PTO would like grade level money to be spent quickly so it can benefit the students this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mary Peter presented the updated financial report. The Foxtrot raised approximately \$11,800.00. We are still waiting for some money to come in and there are still some expenses to be paid. The Book Fair raised \$1392.29 which will be used in the library to purchase more books, etc.

Our PTO is now officially a corporation with the state. We are still working on our non-profit status.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Malinda stated that now is the time to be thinking about who will serve on the PTO Board next year and committee heads. Malinda will send out sheets listing the responsibilities for each position and the time that would be involved. If you would like to nominate someone or serve in one of the positions, please give your forms to Malinda.

Malinda wanted to remind parents of the skating party coming up soon. The first will be on April 8th from 6:00-8:00p.m. for students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade. The second will be on April 29th from 6:00-8:00p.m. for students in 3rd grade through 6th.

Farley night at Wendy's, March 9th, was a big success. Farley set a record for that store! The old record was \$2291.03 in sales and Farley raised \$2720.41. Thanks to everyone who participated!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SPIRIT WEAR: Shelly Keller reported that the teachers have been contacted regarding the t-shirt contest. The committee is working on forming a group to narrow down the entries.

FOXTROT AUCTION: Shelly Keller reported that her committee did well collecting the money for the auction items. There are only a few items that have not been paid for or picked up. Shelly asked for the PTO's opinion on a problem the committee had with one of the auctions. A parent bid on the wrong sheet for a teacher experience. The auction was for front row seats to a performance. It was agreed that accommodations would be made this year, but next year we will need to make it clear that if you bid on an auction, that's what you get.

She also stated that she has heard nothing but positive feedback from everyone about the Foxtrot.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP: Yona Dunnaway reported that the committee still needs help. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Yona or Vera Rentier. Helpers are needed to set up and take down the trees. Volunteers are also needed to take photos of the children, greet the kids and parents, set up and take down tree displays, etc. The theme this year will be a fox/forest theme. They plan to set up some Christmas trees to create a forest area and stuffed foxes. If anyone has stuffed foxes the committee could borrow, it would be greatly appreciated. Please put your name on your fox and it will be returned to you after roundup.

The committee will be setting up on April 8th after school. Roundup will be on April 9th. The morning session will be from 9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m. The afternoon session will be from 1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. Some student volunteers from the high school will be coming to help the kids in the classrooms. Mrs. Cassidy will be talking to the parents and showing a Power Point presentation. The nurse will also be speaking to parents. President, Malinda asked if she should talk to the new parents about the PTO. Possibly, this would be a good time to get parents interested in volunteering for the different committees. Mrs. Cassidy thought this would be a good idea.

BOX TOPS: Mary Peter reported that Farley will be receiving another check from the program for \$536.40. This should arrive around April 15th. The contest for the top three classes, who collect the most box tops, ends March 31st.

CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS: Juli Voigt is still collecting labels. She has a booklet of items we can redeem the labels for. She would like everyone to continue collecting labels throughout the summer. The PTO Board would like to see the booklet before passing it on to the teachers.

FOXTROT COMMITTEE: Donna Doel thanked everyone for their hard work on the Foxtrot. It was a great success. There was a follow-up meeting on March 3rd to discuss the things that went well and the things that needed improvement. Next year, we will probably start much earlier in the year. We expect to need a few more volunteers next year, so if you would like to help out next, please let Donna know.

Malinda added that the Board wanted to thank the custodians for their help during the Foxtrot and the months prior. A small monetary compensation was given to each of the three custodians for all of their help. We couldn't have done it without them!

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 8th, 2010 at 2:15p.m. The meeting on May 13th, 2010 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.

Meeting adjourned.