

Winthrop School P.T.O.

Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2008

In Attendance: Bob Ross, Amy Carney, Shawn Murphy, Bryna Lakin Davis, Jim Yeaton, Gerry Mroz, Mary-Beth Santarelli, Susan Collins, Maribeth Darwin, Meredith Pecci, Marie Nyland, Mary Ann Barriss, Maureen Ross, Elisa O'Connor, Theresa Ventura, Holly Markham, Deb Gray, Andi Reiter, Lisa Cusolito, Sharon Delgenio, Julie Norton, Kelley Sikkema, Corinne Radzik, Kelley Rosnov, Deana Hickey, Lesley Smith, Mary Beth Walsh, Diane Heislein, Adriene Moore, Christina Terranova, Paulette Smiles, Alice Albuja, Megan Mercer, Kristen Dumont, Laura Vianello, Nathan Brodeur, Amy Brodeur, Vicki Frawley, Rachael Ennis, Jen O'Brien and Don Lehman.

I. Call to Order/ Introduction of Executive Board Members (Marie Nyland)

- The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.
- **Vice-President:** Meredith Pecci, **Treasurer:** Shawn Murphy, **Secretary:** Amy Carney, **Principal:** Bryna Davis, **Adopt-A-Site Chairs:** Eric Nyland and Gary Pzego, **Enrichment:** Marybeth Santarelli and Arlene Frasca, **Events:** Marybeth Darwin, **Golf Tournament:** Rob Cunningham, **Holiday Bazaar:** Kelly Botto & Amy D'Allessandro, **Hospitality:** Maryann Barriss, **Kiosk:** Celeste Krouse, **Newsletter:** Susan Collins, **Memorial Day Parade:** Erin Gibson, **Photographer/Newspaper Publicity:** Melissa Cunningham, **School Pictures:** Patty Short, **School Spirit Day:** Ann McCarthy and Mary Budrose, **School Clothing Sale:** Ann McCarthy, **Ways and Means:** Marie Nyland and Peggy Murphy, **Webmaster:** Kristin Bolton, **Chair of the Grant Committee:** Gerry Mroz, **Lunch Duty:** Holly Markham, **Thanksgiving Day Baskets, Food Drive and Giving Tree:** Theresa Ventura and **Library Book Club:** TBD.

II. Nomination of PTO President (Marie Nyland lead the process)

- Marybeth Santarelli nominated Bob Ross to be the Winthrop PTO president. No other people were nominated. Therefore, there was "election by acclamation" and Bob Ross is the new PTO President.
- Bob Ross introduced himself and his wife Maureen. They both have worked in Education Publishing. Bob is the publisher of a Mathematical Journal. He has a strong interest in education and is looking forward to working together with the Winthrop Community.

III. Nomination of Chairperson for the Memorial Day Parade (Marie Nyland lead the process)

- Meredith Pecci nominated Erin Gibson to be the Chairperson of the Memorial Day Parade. No other people were nominated. Therefore, there was "election by acclamation" and Erin Gibson is the Chairperson of the Memorial Day Parade.

IV. **Principal's Report (Bryna Davis)**

- The city tested the water at the Winthrop School last week and we are waiting for the results. The tests will measure if there is any lead or bacterial growth in the water.
- The Air Quality and Ventilation Systems were also checked. Currently, there are two ventilation systems at the Winthrop School. The original school has one and the addition has unit ventilators. A specialist was brought in to evaluate how much air is being brought in and put out. This specialist will return tomorrow with materials to repair the unit ventilators. A request was put in to the DOE to check the air quality. It was last checked in 2006. Changes were made in the building at that time based upon the results. We will check the air quality again and look at the new data.
- The MCAS results from 2008 have been published. The school met its adequate yearly progress. The Winthrop Staff and Mrs. Davis are in the process of analyzing the results. They will use the results to make decisions about instruction.

V. **Librarian's Report (Rachel Ennis)**

- Ms. Ennis explained her goal is to support the curriculum with information literacy skills for the first and third grade classrooms. Ms. Ennis is at the Winthrop School on Wednesdays. She has one free period for 2nd, 4th and 5th grades on that day. She is available upon teacher request.
- Ms. Ennis said that the age of the reference material was a concern. Science books should not be more than 5 years old. Ms. Ennis asked for a table for projects and another library cart. Ms. Ennis is looking forward to working with the library coordinator.
- Ms. Nyland (the library coordinator) explained that library classes for the school would begin the week of Oct. 14th. Students will have their library time, but may not be able to check out a book. This is because we are still working on setting up the automation of books.

VI. **Committee News**

- **Gery Mroz** described the grant proposal process. Monies raised from Golf Tournaments are put into a separate account. Parents can submit a grant request for capital improvement. Teachers can submit a request for capital improvement, curriculum or professional development. The requests are sent to Mrs. Davis for approval. Next, the grant proposal goes to the grant committee. They ask questions and get clarification as needed. Finally, the grants are presented at a PTO meeting for a vote.
 1. Mrs. McGilligot requested listening centers for each second grade classroom. Each center includes a boom box, an external amplifier with volume control and six headphones. Total of request was \$472.47. The

PTO members took a vote. 40 people voted for the listening center and 1 opposed it. The grant was approved.

2. Mr. Yeaton requested a subscription to Discovery Education (United Streaming) for one year. Total cost is \$1,700 for a 13-month contract. The PTO members took a vote. 41 members voted for the grant and no one opposed the grant. The grant was approved.
3. Jen O'Brien requested \$995 for a subscription to Brain Pop. This is similar to Discovery Education. However, the videos are shorter and they focus on a concept. Discovery Education videos take kids places where they couldn't go normally. Ms. O'Brien thought that Brain Pop was a useful tool for differentiating instruction. The videos target 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. Brain Pop Jr. is also available for the lower grades. Ms. O'Brien agreed to be the point person for the faculty with questions about Brain Pop. A vote was taken to approve the Brain Pop grant. 35 PTO members voted in favor of the grant and 6 opposed the grant. The grant was approved.
4. Ms. Collins presented a capital improvement request for \$5,000 to improve the all purpose room. A designated pathway would be created with a 5' half wall attached to the left hand columns in the all purpose room. In addition, a bank tape would lead to the entrance door. Construct two closets for chair storage. Purchase vertical chair storage racks. Purchase commercial wall fans for the all-purpose room. The city would provide labor and an electrician.
 - The PTO members discussed the pros and cons of a permanent wall. Parents suggested alternatives such as a retractable door or retractable tape across the whole room. In addition, some members felt it was the school systems responsibility and not the PTO's to pay for this capital improvement. Mrs. Davis explained that she put in this request to the city last year under her capital improvement plan. It was denied because of budget constraints. Bob Ross expressed that while a permanent wall might not be the most ideal solution for the problem, this proposal might be the most cost effective solution. He said he thought we should spend the \$5,000 to get Ms. Davis what she says she needs.
 - Mr. Mroz proposed that up to \$5,000 be granted to construct some type of wall, closets for chair storage, vertical chair storage racks and wall fans. 27 PTO members voted for the grant and 8 opposed the grant. The grant was approved.
5. Ms. Collins presented a grant request of \$5,569.92. This would supply the cafeteria equipment for storage, preparation and serving of lunches. It would include a French door with locking system, and a tray, a commercial sink with prep area; ten wall cabinets and two base cabinets. The construction would take place during a school vacation. 26 PTO members voted for the grant and 7 opposed the grant. The grant was approved.

VII. Other Business

- Cari Roche volunteered to coordinate the Coke Reward Points program for the Winthrop School. You can donate your points to a school. More details to follow.

- Bob Ross: The Challenge to this year's PTO.
 - He would like to address environmental issues in the building. Ross would like to have another executive board meeting in 4-6 weeks. Connie Castro, an attorney would like to present some pertinent information to the PTO at the next meeting.
 - Mr. Ross would like to start a Children's Theatre group.
 - Mr. Ross would like to have an art project (class murals) to be displayed on the walls of the Winthrop to brighten up the school.
 - Parking issues should be addressed.
 - The PTO should prioritize expenditures and have targeted fundraising.
 - Yearly budgets should be exhausted.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.. The next PTO meeting will be November 5, 2008.