

Minutes of the
Roosevelt School PTO Meeting
January 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Board members present were Co-Presidents, Giovanna Spinale and Susanna Zysk, Treasurer Kathy Nottingham and Secretary, Rosemary Rossi. Vice President Betsey Benagh was unable to attend. Co-President Giovanna Spinale called the meeting to order.

Opening Remarks: Susanna Zysk and Giovanna Spinale welcomed everyone. It was announced that Rollerworld night was listed on the calendar as February 4, but we are moving it to April 15. _

Principal's Report: Mrs. Clery welcomed everyone and wished them a Happy New year. She announced that Bryna Davis the principal at the Winthrop School, has been elected to grand jury duty and the rest of the principals will be taking a week at a time to cover her school. Mrs. Clery is at the Winthrop this week for 3 mornings. January 14th is Kindergarten and 1st Grade information night at the Middle School. On January 28 there will be tours here for the Kindergarten and incoming Grade 1 students. There are time slots, which enable people to tour all of the schools. The ½ day Kindergarten switch will be on January 26 as the 90th day of school is the 27th. The Site Council is working hard on the School Improvement Plan to be submitted to the school committee. Mrs. Clery explained that based on 9 goals given by the Department of Education we come up with the goals we will address over the next year. Mrs. Clery spoke about the MCAS prep that was paid for by the PTO. Beginning the week after February vacation there will be after school programs for specific 4th and 5th grade students. It will run for 8 weeks for 5th grade then 8 weeks for 4th grade students. Mrs. Harrison is running the 4th grade group and Ms. Murthy is running the 5th grade group. Children are being chosen based on previous years scores. There are 25 books for the 3rd grade, which can be given on a first come first, serve basis (Giovanna will give them to Mrs. Clery).

Auction Update: Emily Smith co-chair for 3rd year in a row announced that the auction is coming up on March 20. The auction is the largest fundraiser for the PTO. \$14,000 was raised last year. Right now we are having our first meeting of the large group of volunteers at Lucia Krinsky's house, stuffing envelopes with a note to save the date, new places to solicit donations, etc. Last year there were close to 300 donations from businesses. We are a little concerned in light of the economic climate. We are looking for new ideas and fresh blood and hope to see some new faces. If anyone is interested and would like to know more you can let me (Emily Smith) know and I will put you on our volunteer list. She indicated that they need people to make copies, sell tickets, solicit donations, stuff gift bags, graphic design, typing, etc. Giovanna Spinale said that she had received a phone call from a company (A.J. Ross) that works with the Winchester schools, they get donations for you. Schools who have used them have made \$10,000 more than on their own. They do not take a commission. They get it from the companies who donate. Giovanna has the information and will forward it to Emily for review. Emily said that they would send home

information in backpacks. Classes put together donations, teachers get involved, etc. Question: Is there a theme this year? Answer: Chairs are meeting soon to discuss it. Co-chairs Lucia Krinsky and Samantha vanBeever and Emily and Betsey Benagh. Question: is the caterer the same? Answer: nothing has been finalized yet.

Fundraising: Susanna Zysk spoke to the fact that we have many fundraisers many of which are in the fall. We ask for money all fall. I recalled a fundraiser at Roosevelt about 6 years ago. It was a flower fundraiser. Delivery came around Mothers' Day. They worked with a local farm and I don't remember what flowers came but I know I got impatiens. Susanna found Flower Power in Vermont and they have a relationship with Dutch Gardens. They have flowers and bulbs, and they offer fundraisers. They offer 50% of the profit. They have a nice variety of flowers to choose from. We could do it after the auction and have it coincide with Mothers' Day. It may be good timing. I'm not sure what kind of money we could bring in. Betsey had an idea that if we did the fundraiser in the spring we could put a portion of the funds towards the 5th grade recognition for the following year. There is a person who has agreed to chair the fundraiser – Christine Richards – who worked on one like this at St. Mary's last year. Question: Giovanna asked about giving funds to next year's 5th grade. Could we take the 4th grade's 50% raised and give to them? Question: would this then take away their 2 fundraisers? Doreen Cincotta said that we need to be careful if this is going to replace a 5th grade fundraiser, especially if we are not specifying a dollar amount. Because it is an unknown dollar amount we need to be careful how we word the motion. We really can't say how much we would be able to contribute on an unknown fundraising event. There was more discussion about planting bulbs in the spring, etc. The consensus was to test it this year and then decide how we want to deal with the funds raised for the following years. Proposal is to run a spring fundraiser with a flower and bulb sale and potentially offer it to the 4th grade to be placed towards the 5th grade fundraisers in the future. If we can, it would be nice to get rid of a fall fundraiser. It can be held no sooner than the Monday after the auction. Question: What is the turn around time? Answer: orders in by April 24 and then everything is out in a week, delivered in early May for Mothers' Day. If Betsey can tie in a link on the web page to an order form that would be good. Also, we need to find out if orders can be done on line.

Motion to test a new fundraiser – a flower fundraiser in the spring, starting at the end of March and having delivery for the week of Mothers' Day, May 10, with the hopes of eliminating a fall fundraiser, seconded and passed.

Play update: The play update was given by Giovanna Spinale for Sue Boomhower – all parts have been accounted for. Every child who signed up (42 kids), all have parts. For those participating, schedules are out and it informs them about their rehearsals every Friday from now to February vacation. After that the cast is divided in half for alternating Fridays. Scripts are in and they are already learning the songs. Parents do not have to be here for practices. They should be here for timely pick up but not here for the practice. It makes a lot of the kids really nervous. When you are learning a new song and techniques, kids get embarrassed. We have 2 dates for June 12 and a matinee on Saturday. The other person working would like to do 4 shows. To have parents commit to 4 shows would be

difficult. Right now we are keeping it to 2 shows and then we'll see how it goes. If there is more demand for more shows, then we'll take it from there. Question: Are there 2 separate casts or are the same kids in both shows? Answer: we are not sure. Rina is trying to sell us on 4 shows. There are 2 Annies, other than that we don't know. We did not agree to 4 shows and if someone wants something different, she needs to come to a PTO meeting and address the issue. They are going to charge \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. The idea of capping off at \$20 per family was a good idea but some people were coming in with 10 people in the family. There will be no family cap. This should alleviate some of the congestion that we had last year. Sue is very excited and the kids are excited. The issue of costumes is gone as most of the cast are orphans. Doreen Cincotta said that you might suggest that she pole the parents of the students to see if they are agreeable to 4 shows. Discussion – but then she would think that she has an option and she does not. To jump from 1 show to 2 is reasonable. To jump from 1 to 4 is not. Even if we were agreeable, there is no place to have 2 more shows. 4 days later is the barbeque and field day and then we are out of school. There is also baseball, soccer and lacrosse. Giovanna Spinale said that she has asked The Churchill American League to put the dates of our barbeque on their calendar so they would not schedule games for that date. They change the dates for us when they know when our barbeque is. Giovanna will email Sue Boomhower and Rina to let them know what was decided at this meeting. Before the next PTO meeting we will meet with them to tell them what we have for them.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Nottingham gave the report. Expenses paid: teacher stipends the Friday before Christmas vacation. Teachers were very happy. \$2,650; \$1,500 for Winter Wonderland; \$24 for supplies; and \$69 order on Genevieve's that came in too late. Hood milk caps made money \$24 for box tops. Income: Winter Wonderland made \$2,470; we had a balance of \$1,131 so Winter Wonderland has about \$3,600, of which we spent \$2,000. We have 1550 items for next years Winter Wonderland. We have an extra \$300 left in funds budgeted for teacher stipends which should be moved into emergency.

Motion to move balance from teacher stipends to emergency funds in the amount of \$350, seconded and passed.

PTO Board Nominations for 2009/2010 discussion. We want to start sending out forms and gathering names for anyone who wants to be named. The bylaws state that the board members are for a 2-year term. It also states that if no one else is interested, then a member can stay for another term. We would like to start sending out information letting everyone know that the board term is up and asking people to start thinking about people who might be interested.

Mrs. Dembro had her baby boy and Mrs. Jones had a girl on January 1. Mrs. Libby had a double knee replacement surgery and is recovering at New England Rehab.

Motion to accept the minutes from December meeting, seconded and passed.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed. Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.