

Minutes of the
Roosevelt School PTO Meeting
March 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Board members present were Co-Presidents, Giovanna Spinale and Susanna Zysk, Vice President Betsey Benagh and Secretary Rosemary Rossi.

Treasurer's Report: Susanna Zysk gave the report because Treasurer, Kathy Nottingham, could not be present. A report of income and expenses for the month was detailed to those present.

Auction update: Emily Smith brought the most recent draft of the auction booklet for viewing. 250 donations have been secured so far. We will have a deck of cards raffle where we sell a deck of cards at \$30 per card for an item. We were given a diamond ring from Parella Jewelers valued at \$1200. We purchased it for \$200. It is a 5 stone diamond ring. You must be present to win; raffle tickets will be sold only at the event. There is a limit of one ticket per person. We have another raffle for which we will sell tickets before the auction, which you do not have to be present to win. Next week we will be selling tickets to the event and for the raffle in the lobby for 3 days. We are having beer and wine tasting and food. The DJ we had for the Halloween party has agreed to MC the event. We still need volunteers to sell tickets, pass appetizers, etc. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Staff is invited for free. We will continue to accept donations up to the time of the event. There will be an addendum for additional items donated. If anyone would like to help at the event but has not told Emily yet, just contact her. Emily Smith and Betsey Benagh are getting together tomorrow night to make sure they have everything. Doreen Cincotta asked about the booklet – there is a “Buy It Now” price on most silent auction items. We have Red Sox, Bruins and Celtics tickets; there is a Coach bag, lunch with the principal, and lunch with the superintendent all on the live auction. A PDF of the booklet will be posted on the website. All silent auction items will close at 9:00 p.m. There is a list of some of the items on the website. We will send an email blast home to everyone next week reminding them of the auction. Talk it up. We need people to come. Mention it at citywide tomorrow.

Open Discussion: Giovanna Spinale was asked to discuss something received in the mail. Celebrate the Arts – Victoria McLaughlin Foundation – adult community evening featuring the artwork of Melrose school students, choral group, band, etc. There is artwork, musical performances by the school band, jazz band and choral group. This evening is presented free of charge to the Melrose community. Donation proceeds go to the library at the Middle School. The date is April 16. At 5:30 there is a free dinner for the community. Victoria McLaughlin passed away 6 years ago at the age of 3 months of spinal meningitis. This is done in her memory. John McLaughlin asked Giovanna to send out an email blast to families to let them know about the event.

Genevieve's Update: Ellen O'Neill said that the representative keeps calling her to see if we are going to commit to Genevieve's next year. He stopped by with catalogues and some items that will be available next year. Ellen passed around the new catalogue. She said he is great to work with and that it is a great fundraiser for the school. It is the second largest fundraiser after the auction. One person can do it. They give us 50% of what we bring in. To commit we have to pick a date and sign a contract. Question: How many hours of volunteer work? Ellen said that the first year she took it over she did not put anything on the computer so it took less time but then everything had to be double checked. Last year she

put it on the computer and it took her 15 hours to put things on the computer over the course of 4 to 6 weeks. At the end there was more time that she had to put in. Last year we made \$6,849.13. The year before we earned closer to \$8,000.00. Given the economy I don't expect that we will make what we made last year. Genevieve's has a lot of items that we do not put in the packet. We need to find a volunteer to take over Genevieve's for next year. We need to identify one or two people. We are all in agreement that we will keep Genevieve's for next year. We need recruitment in general. We should keep the same timeframe because families expect it. Ideally it would be good to find a parent of a first grader or kindergartener. It begins the 2nd week of school and ends the first week of October.

We decided to try a new fundraiser - spring flower sale. This is a bad year to test something and we don't want to give up Genevieve's right now before we know if the flower sale will work.

Fifth grade recognition: Wednesday, May 27 at the Parish Hall at Most Blessed Sacrament in Wakefield. Traditionally 4th grade parents donate desserts, serve the food, pack up the leftovers, and put the coffee on, etc. so that the 5th grade parents can sit with their families. Question: Why isn't the 5th grade recognition held here? Answer: Most Blessed Sacrament is free and here is \$50 per hour. Most Blessed Sacrament also has round tables and here we have to rent tables. Also the hall at Blessed Sacrament we can have all day and set up and here we have to wait until after lunch.

Motion to accept February minutes, seconded and passed.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed.

Adjourned at 7:55 p.m.