

Minutes of the
Roosevelt School PTO Meeting
November 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present: Co-Presidents, Beth Walsh and Kelly LeComte, V.P. Christine Richards, Treas. Heather Keegan and Secretary Karen McCarthy.

Beth Walsh called the meeting to order. Welcomed all attending. Our Public Recognition effort, Roosevelt Rockstars, is up and running. Nominations are coming in - please continue to send in nominations to our email account - rooseveltschoolpto@gmail.com.

November Rockstars - Student - Lauren Reilly, 4th grade student in Mrs. Ingrams class. Parent - Liz Foulser - thank you for heading up traffic task force for many years, coordinating traffic volunteers and more. She is passionate about safety and having a healthy environment at our school. Staff - Mrs. Samalis - wonderful teaching for all of her 1/2 day Kindergarten children, beautiful nomination was sent in.

Principal's Report: Principal Clery wanted to bring up the Gold Party - and encourages us to have another one due to the success of this party. Focus for the fall/winter will be the analysis of mcas scores. Group of teachers will be coming together to analyze the scores. It was all over the board as far as strengths and weaknesses in the school - no clear cut area where we need improvements. Team Roosevelt meetings focus for grades 3 -5 will be spent on analyzing open response questions. Average score out of 4 was a 2 for the open responses, students will see examples of 2 and 4 answers and will learn how to get to a 4.

The state will now be looking at student growth (in the past, students needed a specific score to be proficient, now growth from one year to the next will be looked at). Students who are identified as need improvement/warning area will be compared against other students in the state with the same score and improvement in the next year will be measured against that group. This is a great way to see how students are progressing, even if they are not proficient. (this measurement is the SGP - student growth percentile)

Treasurer's Report: Through November - final number for contributions (formerly dues) - slightly higher. Genevieve's Fundraiser did well, Sam will be discussing this. Halloween Party - did extremely well, made a profit of over \$200 - great success. General expenses - directory completed and distributed, field trip buses.

Q. Brain Pop status? Subscription covers Brain Pop and Brain Pop Jr. Possibly we could at least have access to one of those. Cost increased from \$200 to \$250.

Motion to allocate up to \$250, seconded and approved.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report. Seconded and Approved.

City Wide: Ellen O'Neill - discussion of visual media in the classroom - Mr. Casey was not present, so all answers were not addressed. R - rated movie was shown in high school, inappropriateness of this was discussed.

Margaret Driscoll, School Committee member, is member of city-wide PTO, brought up teacher professional days. Would it work better if we had regular set program of half days so scheduling could be more regulated school wide? Parent input is necessary for these kinds of changes. Kristen Thorpe is considering it - very early stages of discussion. Anyone with input should contact School Committee members. From an educational standpoint, Principal Clery expressed support for this setup, due to the more attractive timing to address teacher professional needs, but she understands it may be more difficult for family schedules.

Some things going on around Melrose - National Grid is having a recycling program to get rid of old Refrigerators - school gets \$50 as well - through November 30th. www.coolturnin.com. High School Robotics club is having a Kitchen Tour this Sunday, November 10th. High School Chapter of SADD - Nov. 30 - Dec. 14- Toy Drive, Toys for Tots. New change: PTO's "dues" are now "contributions" since we are a tax-exempt org.

Library: Heidi Michel sent in an update:

- Book fair at Barnes and Noble is Friday, Dec. 4 from 9am to 10pm
- I've been told by the store manager that **we will lose all of our profits if it is discovered that someone is "recruiting" buyers** from the store's general clientele.
- Purchases at the cafe (if you relay your Roos. relationship to the clerk) count toward our profits.
- There will be evening events planned at B&N during the fair:
 - Roos. Student Art Show throughout the store all day. The store is removing all of their art to make way for our student's amazing works.
 - 7:00 reading of The Polar Express
 - 8:00 piano selections performed by Austin Smith
 - Wrapping station - a donation will be requested to wrap purchases
 - Cheesecake Factory Cheesecake samples and sale
 - Teacher Wish Lists - I've given each teacher a form to list any book they might want in their classroom.
- There is also an on-line B&N book fair from 12/4 to 12/9 in alongside this in-store fair.

Q. Can we get required reading for 6th graders so parents may purchase their books during the fair?

Genevieve's "Wrap"-up: Samantha van Beever - finally come to a close - some feedback - this may be getting old, little tacky, might want to think about doing something different and fresh. However, it does raise a lot of money - but from the feedback, something new would be appreciated. Class that made the most was Mrs. Murthy. Any child that raised \$65 or more was entered into a drawing - the child that won is Zaden Viola.

Input - look for Online piece with any future vendors.

Auction Update: Elaine Breen and Angela Foti are in charge of the Event side of the evening- Auction is Friday, March 12th - 7 - 11pm. Hilton Hotel in Woburn, MA - only 7 minutes away! It is a beautiful site. Hot and Cold hors d'oeuvres. Live entertainment and emcee by a local modern Irish band. Currently organizing volunteers for the event.

Christina Gagliano and Amanda Clausen are in charge of the Auction side of it. Cash bar - this will not be a wine tasting this year. Rooms are blocked off at a great group rate. Credit cards will be accepted for payments. Mass mailings to businesses going out soon. Looking for great donations of time and talents. Also looking for ideas from the teachers for specific goals to target the fundraising efforts. SMART Boards. Lamination Machine.

Angela Foti - Gold Sale - auction raised \$610, which will be used towards providing the teachers tickets to the auction. Thanks to Angela Foti and Elaine Breen for their work on this.

5th Grade Recognition - No date set yet. Will probably be a Wednesday in June. 5th Grade Raffle is ongoing - please buy tickets! Roosevelt Family Night at Grimsby's coming up - November 19th. 15% of food sales from that night will be donated to the PTO - make sure you mention the Roosevelt School. Cookie Dough sale will be coming out next week.

5th Grade Recognition night is an "step up night" for 5th grade students and their parents.

Cradles to Crayons Event: Lots of donations already - keep bringing in your items. Family volunteer opportunity at the Middle School this Saturday from 10 - 2 - to help sort and put together outfits to deliver to children in need.

Wreath and Greenery Sale: Thanks to Tami White, Cathy McGovern, and Caroline Kraunelis for stepping up and taking on the sale.

Halloween Party Recap: Last shout out - great success! Many more people than in past years - thank you to all of the volunteers.

Trex Recycling Program: Sara Brandon: flyer will be going out. National contest to see who can collect the most bags - bring in plastic bags.

Dogs are not allowed on Roosevelt School Property. Please refrain from bringing dogs to drop-off and pick-up.

Water fountains are being cleaned more frequently, along with doorknobs, keyboards and other such surfaces.

Playground - could older students clean up? Lots of left-behind clothes, lunch bags, etc.

Motion to approve the minutes from October meeting, seconded and passed.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.