

Minutes of the
Roosevelt School PTO Meeting
October 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members present were Co-Presidents, Beth Walsh and Kelly LeComte, Vice President Christine Richards, Treasurer Heather Keegan and Secretary Karen McCarthy.

Beth Walsh called the meeting to order. Welcomed everyone. The new board has been busy learning our roles and trying to put together a great year. The Walk to School Day, coordinated by Liz Foulser, was a big success. It was socially and environmentally healthy.

Reminder - to take a look at the Giving Tree - it is apple picking season! Teachers put up "wish list" items, please consider taking one and donating.

Roosevelt Rockstars - we will publicly recognize unsung heroes that make Roosevelt a great place. Each month we will recognize one member of staff, one parent and one student. First Rockstars: Joanne Kimball-Sherman - for her ongoing efforts in coordinating box tops for education drive, raising thousands of dollars for the pto, using her knowledge of sign language to teach the students each year, and being a board member of the teachers union. Parent - Heidi Michel - coordinator of library volunteers, putting in lots of time and efforts, coordinating on and off site book fairs. Student - Aria Dias (Mrs. Kimball-Sherman's class) for her consistent kindness and always being helpful to classmates.

Principal's Report: Principal Clery - welcome everyone, especially to two special guests - Paul Brodeur - City Alderman and JD LeRock, who is currently running for school committee.

Walk to School Day was a complete success! It was held on the rain date, thank you to all who helped lead us on the walks. Huge groups coming around corners and around Roosevelt. Traffic Task Force said it was very quiet with no traffic! As a school, we want to advertise this and get people involved in doing this more - Walk to School Wednesdays, possibly - there will be a meeting next week to come up with something more structured.

School has been up and running for a month, she is very pleased with some of the changes since last year. Last year was more a year for observing, this year changes which began last spring have been implemented. 1. The inclusion model (grades 2-5) with the addition of a special ed teacher has really taken leaps. 2. Meeting the needs of all learners. She would like feedback (positive or negative) so we can make Roosevelt even stronger. There was a concern with the amount of change, but things have been going very well and there are lots of support. Co-teaching is happening successfully and is proving to be effective. For example, Mrs. Mitchell is now fully

integrated with the staff, the "go-to" person, and a sense of community is being created among all of the teachers.

Melrose City Recycling Coordinator: Mary Beth Calnan - a trash audit was done last year...the city will continue the recycling contest. Each school competes against one another, highest student - recycling ratio will win, one winner in fall and one in spring. One difference this year, the city now takes the trash - we need to limit trash to save money!, Now it is mandatory for all municipal buildings to recycle. She encourages the use of reusable things for lunch - reusable bottles instead of water bottles, less baggies. Possibly one day a week, try to do this! It will make a big difference.

New twist to contest - Trex box - Melrose as a whole is competing to collect the most shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, clean baggies. A volunteer is needed to tally collection and bring the bag of bags to Shaws (probably 1xweek). Contact her at mcalnan@cityofmelrose.org if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.

Idle free regulations - RMV designated all school zones to be idle-free zone. City is in process of getting signage.

Treasurer's Report: Heather Keegan - Heather thanks Kathy Nottingham for her help in the treasurer transition. Presented were the budgeted numbers to go forward for the 2009-2010 school year.

Fiscal year end is July 31st. Numbers are set up as budgeted vs. last years actuals.

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

Halloween Party Update:

Christine Thorsteinsson and Sara Gravante are the coordinators of the Halloween Party. It will be on the 24th of October. They still need volunteers. 1 hour or even a 1/2 hour for set up, games, clean up would be appreciated. Also nut-free baked goods are needed.

City Wide:

Ellen O'Neill - city wide has representatives from all pto's and meets once a month to share information. E-Camp was discussed (E-Camp is an overnight camp program that 5th grade students traditionally go on, for 3-5 days) It has been inconsistent across Melrose schools in both length and location. Some are in Rhode Island, Cape, or Maine. The district is thinking of streamlining this and having all schools go to one camp and possibly save money with transportation. Nothing has been decided yet. Today, in this economy, the costs could make more children need assistance, which might be too much for PTO's to pay for. A plan for those children who stay home from camp will be needed.

MCAS scores - principal's have access to results so they can compare their grades and students, there is a new evaluation instrument available which will be used for comparing teachers and hopefully will roll out this year. This could identify staff that might need support to help them improve their instruction so their students' MCAS scores can go up.

Dress code at high school - currently based on "what is appropriate", which is hard to enforce. Middle school has stricter requirements, it was raised that the stricter rules should roll over into high school.

Cyberbullying and the use of social networks - appropriateness of students and staff, what lines not to cross was discussed and raised as an issue of concern.

Blocks on websites in the buildings: innocent google searches may sometimes bring up inappropriate sites, there are blocks, teachers need to make note of addresses and contact Frank Cerranti. Parents should contact teachers if they hear from their children that something inappropriate has been seen.

School Play: Sue Boomhower and Patty Nunley - they are hoping to bring it back. Would like to do rehearsals on Fridays. Would like other volunteers - the volunteers don't need to be at all rehearsals, but could help on building the sets, and also the days of the show. They had amazing helpers last year. This year's show has not been determined yet. All 3rd - 5th graders are welcome. Late Nov/early December a notice will be sent home about try-outs. All who tryout will be in the play. The dates of the shows will be announced ahead of time. It is free to participate.

Open Discussion and Announcements:

Reminder to spread word that there is an election coming up. Get informed - it is a tight race for school committee!

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

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.