

PTO MEETING MINUTES

10/11/2011

PTO President Becca Oberlander started off the meeting by introducing 1st Grade Teacher Rebekah Raney to explain the details of a Reading Workshop. Workshop will help teachers learn new ways to improve fluency, comprehension, and also children who are struggling with reading. It is a one day workshop and the teachers are requesting money to send 3 teachers. These teachers will return with knowledge, skills, and materials to share with other SP teachers. The cost is \$179/person. All present voted to approve this expenditure of PTO funds.

Recent approvals by PTO Board. Becca then updated all on recent expenditures approved by the PTO Board. \$360 for a candle making project with Mr. Green and \$280 for handwriting books for all 3rd grade students.

Becca then introduced former Sylvan Park parent and current West End Middle School PTSO President Julie Prince. Julie provided a lot of information about WEM and invited everyone to please come and check out the school. They have a strong PTSO this year. She brought packets with a lot of info about the school—info regarding the IB program. IB. West End is a very nurturing place and not a big transition from SP as far as Middle Schools go. Upcoming event is their big Yard Sale which includes a bake sale, pesto from the school garden, and more. Open house and tour will be November 10th most likely. Info about this and everything else at the west end PTSO website: www.westendptso.org

WEMS Principal Jeff Keith. Talked about the many great things going on at the school and how a number of improvements are being made. WEMS has about 20 clubs, 15 or more led by parents.—disc golf, sign language, environmental, garden, Chinese, book club, plus more. They have a wonderful PE teacher who has organized a West End Team from the run club, a great band teacher, scientists in the classroom, Treemont outdoor learning classroom in the Smokey Mountains, and more. They are actively working on improving the achievement levels and they have made huge gains. Interventions seem to be working. This all lead to a brief discussion regarding our interest in having WEMS be an option for all SP students, not just those who are zoned.

Parent Advisory Council Rep, Tanya Flushman—explained that her job is to represent our school and it's parents in the district meetings. They meet once a month. Dr. Register is there too. District is trying to use data to interpret and evaluate how to help students. If we have issues this is an avenue. We have a liaison and Tanya will find out more about who that is and how they will be of help.

Angela Williams reported on Spirit Wear sales and our Outdoor Classroom—spirit wear is closed until Spring. We sold a ton of stuff. Will be delivered around 31st. Outdoor classroom will break ground in February with the help of the MTSU builders. Send email to Angela if you are interested helping or joining the committee. aawilliams1974@gmail.com

Chelle Baldwin, cafeteria update. Two walls need a clear coat. Trees and clouds will be finished over fall break. Would like to paint cafeteria serving area, and touch up hallways. Please help! Will then set up date for dedication. Two dates have been set for next week for volunteers. Tuesday, Oct. 18th—6:30–8:30pm
Thursday, Oct. 20th—6:30–8:30pm

Betsy Hoban reported that the results of City Saver book sales were fabulous! We made \$5200.00 when only 4,000.00 was expected.

Lee Perry updated all on the Halloween Dance 6-8pm, Friday October 28th teachers are selling drinks scouts are selling chips and hot dogs. 6-6:30 trick or treating. Need cleanup volunteers. May or may not have door decorating, if so there is a \$50 prize. Itunes card \$75.00 for Mrs. Riddle to get the hippest tunes!

Katherine Brown reported on Invest in Your Child. \$3,700.00 have brought in so far, we were hoping for 4,000.00—but its not too late to give.

Elizabeth Merkel reported on the success of the Parent Mixer and Auction. Attendance was great and we raised \$7000 for our school.

Kate Wingate, Stand for Children. Policies for children to benefit them in our school and the community. 2nd balanced calendar was approved. Includes intercessions—in the Fall and Spring remediation and enrichment during time when they are not in their classes. Want to provide input into these decisions. Short meeting was held after PTO meeting to discuss further.

Patricia Majett reported that there is a Nashville farm to school summit this Friday, October 14th. They are working to implement a program around the country to improve quality of school food. Free of charge. They want input. Patricia Majett will ask questions for us. Contact her for more info: patriciamajett@yahoo.com

Ann Lynn Walker reported on the newly organized PTO Closet. Please keep it neat.