

Chatham Middle School PTSA

Meeting Minutes for 4-1-09

Meeting called to order at 2:20 p.m.

First order of business-discussion with students.

One-bell system – comments from students:

* Some buses have a lot of people already, kids already doubled up in their seats and sometimes 3 per seat; difficult with instruments and backpacks

* How will it affect private school students?

* How will bigger instruments fit on buses?

* It might be annoying for little kids like Kindergarteners to be on buses with high schoolers

* There is a lot of swearing on buses, wrestling, meanness of big kids to little kids (this mentioned several times)

* There's a greater chance of an accident with more kids on bus

* Some routes are long already, almost an hour

* Concern about little kids having to get up earlier

* Traffic congestion with all kids being dropped off at same time

* Would there be assigned seats so younger kids don't annoy older kids?

* Having younger kids on bus might influence older kids to be better behaved

Principal Gordon Fitting and Assistant Principal Larry Burud asked for show of hands – half of the students present have seen older kids pick on younger kids; almost all have heard bad language

Discussion about the importance of reporting swearing- students can remain anonymous most of the time, depending on the infraction reported.

Other topics discussed with students:

Reminder of Sean's Run lottery – applications available for 50 slots, with fee to be paid by SADD and PTSA

Book Fairs – PTSA Pres. Tammy Shaw asks students if they want to have 1 or 2 each year, they choose 2.

TV Turnoff week activities – Tammy asks for activity suggestion. Mentioned - kickball, board games, basketball, music and dancing, capture the flag, active videogames like Dance Dance Revolution, volleyball, tennis, ping pong

Winter Carnival – Students say yes they still want it

Spirit Week – Students said they enjoyed this year’s events

Playground – Suggestions included jungle gyms/monkey bars (several said this), more equipment, more kickballs, hula hoops and jump ropes (maybe), picnic tables or someplace to sit

Regular Business Meeting:

Present – Tammy Shaw, Sue Oram, Mary-Noelle Fabiano, Maureen Otto, Larry Burud, Taitia Shelow, Gordon Fitting, Camille Freedner, Jackie McKeon

Tammy announced we are going to schedule an audit

Correspondence – none

Wellness Day – April 9. PTSA provides food for presenters. Tammy asks where food is to be set up where? Library or guidance? Camille will check and email Tammy.

TV Turnoff Week – We need volunteers in order to hold the events. If it rains JV and Varsity teams practice in the gym so Tammy will check again about alternate possibilities.

Staff Appreciation Day – May – Kelly Mackerer handling it.

Transportation Appreciation Day – Need someone to coordinate it. Jackie and Sue said they will help.

Microwave request – Haven’t heard yet whether or not one for students’ use can be put in cafeteria. Gordon will check again

No effort fundraisers – We just received \$596 check from Hannaford; for BJs fundraiser we received about 5 applications back, at least 10 went out.

Brick fundraiser – Jackie reported she met with local company, Canteles. We can get bricks for \$20 and that includes engraving, then sell for \$40-50. Canteles does walkways, walls etc. all the time and would bring bricks here, no shipping charge. Suggestion we do it as fall fundraiser and sell as holiday gifts. Discussion about where/how to use bricks. And how much could be raised? Suggestion made we have a contractor design something and see how many bricks we need. Gary Wemple suggested as possibility. Jackie will contact him. The superintendent and building committee must be contacted too. Suggestion made to do Character pillars in front of school.

Cotton candy machine – Tammy reported that the one PTSA purchased smoked so she is seeing if we can return it.

Reminder that May meeting is PTSA board elections time. All offices are up for election. Interested people should let Tammy know.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.