

**CHATHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2009**

Call to Order at 6:35 p.m.

Present: Tammy Shaw, Mary-Noelle Fabiano, Sue Oram, Taitia Shelow, Deb Melanson, Amy Clifford, Michelle Hill, Ann Flanagan, Karen Engel, Gordon Fitting, Larry Burud, Sarah Lipsky, Camille Freedner, Maureen Otto, Jen VanBrunt

Approval of Minutes for February 2009: Motion by Mary-Noelle, second by Deb; motion passed.

Officer's Reports:

Treasurer's Report (Amy Clifford) – see separate report

Co-Secretary - Mary-Noelle Fabiano reported that no correspondence was received; she sent thank-you notes to businesses who donated to Sweetz & Jazz and Taitia sent item to newspapers thanking everyone.

Committee Reports:

Sweetz-n-Jazz – The event went very well. Special thanks to Maureen Otto and Jen Van Brunt for making table runners and centerpieces. Lots of food was donated by parent volunteers and we received lots of set up and cleanup help from volunteers. Thank-you to everyone who helped.

Spirit Week – The week also was a big hit, as reported by Tammy and Larry. The kids really got into it. Larry said the school nurse has asked if we'd do similar lunchtime activities on semi-regular basis because no fights amongst kids. Maybe once a month?

Winter Carnival update – Tammy said we had about 65 kids signed up for the games but needed twice as many; maybe we should do at end of Spirit Week next year to get better attendance. We still plan to do something for the kids who signed up; need ideas.

Ice cream social for honor students Feb. 27 – Thanks to Sue and Gina Shields for taking care of it. Sue reported there was a misunderstanding on ice cream donation so we had to buy at a discount; Sue said it fell through the cracks with the grocery store but should be OK for next time. Normally PTSA doesn't pay for it.

Spring Book Fair – Sue reminded everyone this starts next week; still need a few volunteers. Will be held 4 school days and during science fair Wednesday night. We again have lots of voucher credit from Scholastic, about \$1,000. We will give book to each science fair participant and more expensive one to winners. Kids can show their vouchers for their experiment site and we will check them off the list. Sue will do blurb for morning announcements.

Turn TV Off Week/Grant – Tammy said the plan is to do an event April 21 for 5th & 6th grade and April 23 for 7th & 8th grade, after school, 2:30-4:30. Need co-chair and activity idea for the kids. We were informed we will not get Wellness Committee \$150 grant, but there is other money available Tammy will apply for.

Year End Committees – Kelly Mackerer is doing staff appreciation day; we need co-chair to work with MED on transportation day breakfast; Character Wellness Day April 9 – breakfast and lunch by us for presenters.

Old Business

Microwave Request – Kids had asked if can have one in cafeteria for heating lunch; Tammy asked the status of request. Gordon said he doesn't know if we legally can and is checking on this.

No Effort Fundraising: Box Tops, Ann sent them in recently, and another deadline's at year's end; BJ's, we haven't heard so Taitia will check; Target, Tammy received info about a card you can sign up for and they send the school money when you use it, she will look into this; Hannaford, no one sure if receipt collection for schools is still going on; Price Chopper, we were in the lead for Advantage Card last time Deb checked

Fundraisers –

Tammy reported we will be left with about \$1,500 at end of year after expenses. We probably can't do tag sale since we lost an April vacation day to snow day; Gordon says maybe we still can have it in gymnasium.

Wall or walkway with bricks - Tammy reports a company in Albany and one out of state sells them. We would have to get approval from district building committee on where could put a wall. She waiting for get started packet from both companies. People suggest contacting a few local monument companies as well.

New Business:

Mini grant request from Gordon – Gordon explained that science fair, when first started, PTSA paid for everything for first several years, but then discontinued because by bylaws were supposed to be seed money. Now school districts come under scrutiny for any type of food expense so it's hard to get money for food. He asked for money for food for science fair judges that come at 7 a.m. and spend day here judging. He is asking for funding for donuts, coffee and pizza or something like it for lunch. Tammy notes we've been trying to get away from spending money on food and have been asking parents for food donations instead. Comments made on it getting out of hand with PTSA providing food all the time. It was noted that staff are doing the judging and it is a regular work day. Request died for lack of motion.

Discussion on past practice regarding 8th grade moving up dance and DJ (*Note: this is actually old business but was discussed during this section of meeting*). Camille says in

past the parents put together the dance; it was gift from parents to students. PTSA helped organize it because the parents were part of PTSA. Gordon disagrees with PTSA paying for DJ and said parents typically form a committee and talk to him and Larry. Question asked about how 8th grade parents know to get together. Answer: it was announced at PTSA meetings in past, or at D.C. trip parent meeting. Suggestion made that info should be sent home to parents via backpack mail or something. Discussion on what parents did in past and how dance varied in its elaboration each year.

Health / Fitness (Sponsoring idea) – Tammy reported that CMS SADD chapter is sponsoring 20 kids for Sean’s Run and approached PTSA about sponsoring 20 kids; Tammy says we have \$350 not spent on Spirit Week so she suggested allotting \$200 and interested kids submit forms with parent signatures and be picked by lottery. Tammy trying for grant that may pay for it, too, because Sean’s Run is at end of TV Turnoff Week. Extensive discussion on how to allot and should it only be kids in need, and how would we determine this fact?

Motion by Amy to sponsor 20 CMS kids to Sean’s Run and the administration will choose them by lottery; motion seconded by Michelle; Motion passes.

Internet Safety (MED & CMS) – MED asked us to co-sponsor a safety talk by FBI at no cost/effort; discussion on difference between what would be discussed at each level. Suggestion made to have 2 separate talks at same time, one for elementary and one for middle school parents; Tammy will check into this. Is agreed we can help publicize event.

Parlerai (Special Education) – tabled

School Tool Box – Tammy asks if this idea to provide the school supplies at school so kids don’t have to bring them all in 1st day; Gordon says it may be more expensive that way but is worth exploring.

Berkshire Taconic Grant – Tammy received an application and will look into possible grants

Cotton candy machine – Tammy reiterated for those who didn’t know that we went halves on a machine with MED PTA, cost was \$50, which she paid from her own pocket (Chocolate Moose was selling it). Motion to reimburse Tammy made by Deb, second by Mary-Noelle; motion passed.

PTSA Board Positions 2009-2010 – All officer positions are up for election this year, and the current president, vice president and treasurer cannot run again for those positions due to term limits. Let Tammy know if interested in a position.

April Meeting/Time change – Tammy asked to change April 1 meeting to 2:15 p.m. so students can attend after school. Everyone was OK with it; Taitia will get the word out to

students and public. It was suggested we serve cotton candy to get kids to come; we will have to move location to cafeteria.

Announcements

Restaurant Raffle to benefit 8th Grade Washington, D.C. trip currently going on – tickets sold at Clocktower Toys & Gifts, Metzwood Harder Insurance and Chatham Makes Sense; \$5 each or 5 for \$20 for chance to win dinner for a year at local restaurants.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

- Submitted by Taitia Shelow, PTSA Secretary