

**Chatham Middle School PTSA**  
**October 1, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

Call to order at 3:07 p.m.

**In attendance:** Tammy Shaw, Jackie McKeon, Sue Oram, Debra Melanson, Taitia Shelow, Samantha McShane, Larry Burud, Gordon Fitting, Camille Freedner, Jackie Hoffman, Barbara Murray, Melissa Sarris, Meg Thorsen, Ryan Thorsen, Jen Vanbrunt, Maureen Otto, Mary Noelle Fabiano, Lucas Christensen, several students

Raffles for a cake and Barnes and Noble gift certificate won by Taitia Shelow and Dominic Shelow

Motion to approve minutes of September meeting made by Samantha McShane; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Camille Freedner. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report** – Tammy Shaw gave report in absence of Amy Clifford. See separate sheet for report.

**Vice President's Report** – Sue Oram

Homeroom Reps – Sue made cards for all teachers with contact info for each rep. She still needs rep for Mrs. (Johanson) Ewers – Taitia will send out a request

**Secretary's Report** – Mary Noelle Fabiano

Correspondence – We received a thank-you from Debbie Roth on behalf of Grade 5, in appreciation for last year's teacher appreciation day.

Mary Noelle will be sending Pat Curry a thank-you for the new bulletin board

Thank you note sent to District Wellness Committee for \$100 grant toward 5th grade turn off TV awareness program

Membership request letters sent to all BOE members and Interim Super and Assistant Super. Also all teachers received personal invitation to become a member of PTSA

**Mini grant requests**

Treadmill request – from Mr. Rivers and Mrs. Fisher for gym class. Questions about where it will be kept and when students will get to use it. Concerns expressed about keeping it from being or students from being hurt using it. Mrs. McShane offered a used one a relative is getting rid of. Mr. Fitting asked for request to be tabled because the teachers haven't gone through the regular budgetary process. **Request tabled.**

Request for music assembly – Made by Mr. Christensen. Rusty Pipes men’s choir, RPI acapella group. Performance would expose all students to a high-level performance and encourage more boys to join choir. Cost \$500. Motion by Melissa Sarris to approve the grant, second by Deb Melanson. **Motion carried.**

Request for funding for Special Education life skills program – Made by Meg Thorsen, who explained it is a pre-vocational program, volunteer work and job shadowing, an in-school business (bake sale for staff). Some funds are available but is very structured how they can be used (supplies and materials only) and she wants extra funds for incidentals. Asking \$300. Question was asked, why is it not funded through CSE (Committee on Special Education)? Mrs. Thorsen said she checked and was told it wasn’t. Program is already in progress. Mr. Fitting asks to table request until they can get more info. The program has enough money to get started. **Request tabled.**

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership** – As of 9/30 we had 70 members, including 20 staff. Thanks!

**Fall fundraiser** – Jackie McKeon reported all packets went out and should be brought home by students. Sent out press release to papers. Flyers up and information placed in school office. Mr. Burud suggested we send in an announcement to be read each morning. Delivery of products is Nov. 17, the week before Thanksgiving.

**Reflections contest** – Tammy reported she sent out info about contest to name theme; we will do the actual program next year. Students can win \$100 if their theme chosen. She only received 3 student suggestions so far. October 20 is deadline. The info can be included on agenda for superintendent conference day to get to teachers.

**Fall Book Fair** – Sue Oram – She would like to have the tables set up in front of the cafeteria again even though they have to be taken down each night, because it was best location for students. Mr. Fitting says that is OK. Fair runs Oct. 22-27. Sue would like to get kids more involved by working there, and by bringing in canned goods to get \$1 off a book. Benefit silent food pantries in Chatham and Ghent. Everyone likes idea. We can also use a Scholastic voucher we have by collecting it as cash and donate to food pantries. Can be part of character ed or the special ed life skills program.

**Flu vaccine clinic** – Mary Noelle reported all is set for it to be held Nov. 8 at the school. Open to all in community. \$30 per shot, same as Department of Public Health. We just provide room, tables and chairs and garbage can and get word out. Our PTSA gets \$4 of every shot. Pamphlets went out in progress reports, wellness fair, elementary school, 3 school nurses. Can go online or phone in to preregister. We will do lots of publicity. Taitia will help send out info and deliver pamphlets to churches and senior centers.

**Grants** – Tammy reported the District Wellness Committee donated \$100 to our TV turnoff awareness week. She is looking into grants for basketball court through HRBT. Hannaford does donations and grants.

**Picture Day** – Oct. 9, need 1 or 2 more volunteers for morning, 7:45-10:30 a.m.

### **Old Business**

**Tutoring program** – Tammy reported we need planning committee members to get started. Please contact her if interested.

### **New Business**

**Student concerns** – Tammy noted she had received letters about lunch quantity and those charging lunch only being able to get PBJ; hot lunches allegedly were thrown out to discourage kids from charging. Barbara Murray, new food service director, was present to answer questions. There was miscommunication about charging; kids can now charge up to 5 lunches then can get PBJ or cheese sandwich; or if allergic to any of those items, deli sandwich. Hot lunches will not be discarded anymore. Parents will be notified once kid reaches 5 charges.

As to portion sizes, Mrs. Murray explained we already serve more than suggested size. September was a generic menu because she had only been on the job 2 weeks; now there is choice of another side and she is going to up the offerings. 1 cup to 1 ½ cups is fruit and veggie portion (recommended is ¾ cup). She noted that they offer a discount if you prepay in advance. Those who qualify for free lunch can qualify for free breakfast too; word needs to get out about this.

Tammy also received a note from a student asking for a special PTSA meeting for kids after school so they can catch the late bus. Discussion on this, which everyone thought was good idea.

Also, Tammy received a note from students about nothing to do during recess, indoors and out. Mrs. McShane said they have been talking about it in classroom meeting and kids are working on solutions. Lengthy discussion on what can be done. It was noted by staff present that many of the restrictions are due to student behavior. It is agreed to try and let the students work it out before we get involved.

Chairpersons needed for Lip Sync, Sweetz n Jazz, Spirit Week and Winter Carnival. See Tammy Shaw if interested.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.