

## Chatham Middle School PTSA Meeting Minutes 9-4-08

### Call to order at 6:36 p.m.

Present: Tammy Shaw, Taitia Shelow, Sue Oram, Mary Noelle Fabiano, Larry Burud, Gordon Fitting, Jackie and Maura McKeon, Kris Pearson, Debra Melanson, Darlene Madsen, Kelly Mackerer, Alta Garland, Camille Freedner.

Pres. Tammy Shaw extended a welcome to the old and new members in attendance and introduced officers. She announced the changes of some PTSA meeting times so staff can attend – Oct., Jan. and April meetings will be held 3 p.m. in school library. Meetings will be advertised in local papers.

### Officer's Reports:

**Treasurer** – Tammy gave report as Amy Clifford couldn't attend. She explained that we changed the fall fundraiser due to it conflicting with Nature's Classroom fundraiser. The new fundraiser is pies and other food that will arrive before Thanksgiving. Tammy explained proposed budget and changes (copies available).

Motion to adopt 2008-09 budget as written made by Deb Melanson; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kelly Mackerer. Motion Passes.

Food Co-op – We will do this again this year and it is starting soon; Amy in charge and will send out order forms.

### President – Tammy Shaw

By-laws – Two changes suggested - changing membership dues to \$5 per person and eliminating per family fee; and changing Article XII-Committees, Section 2 (b) to read “a person can serve an unlimited number of terms as chairman of the same standing committee.” This eliminates 2-term limit. **Motion to adopt changes** made by Darlene Madsen; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Camille Freedner. Motion passes.

Committees/volunteers/homeroom reps – Kelly Mackerer will collect membership forms and keep track then pass along to PTSA officers. Sue Oram will compile names for room reps and give cards to each teacher; can be an unlimited amount per class.

Tammy announced we are looking for student committee - kids to do photos, articles, scrapbook, posters for PTSA events. PTSA will put posters around the school seeking volunteers.

We are looking for chairpersons for various events –contact the proper PTSA officer, as noted on our website, if interested.

Reminder: vouchers needed for reimbursement of costs – can get information from Treasurer Amy Clifford.

PTSA Website – should be 'live' soon, will be on district website, [www.chathamcentralschools.com](http://www.chathamcentralschools.com)

Grants, no effort fundraisers – Tammy is looking into grants. There are several available through Berkshire Taconic, Hudson River Bank and Trust, Lowe’s toolbox for Education.

Fall Fundraiser – Will run Oct 1-14. We get to keep 40 percent. Gas voucher (\$40) for parents if students sell 20 orders or more; gas vouchers for teachers if get 50 percent of class to turn in orders.

Spring fundraiser – we need to think of ideas.

No effort fundraisers – These include soup labels, box tops, printer cartridges (PTSA can give to a person at school already collecting them), BJs membership. Hannaford receipts collected for school. River Rats? We will put together a list of ways to help and distribute/publicize it.

Affordable Tutoring Program – We have a proposal from a retired teacher in the community and need a planning committee. Contact Tammy if you’re willing to be on committee.

### **Vice President – Sue Oram**

Fall Book Fair – dates set for Oct. 22-27; we need location in school. Gordon and Larry are working on finding a room for us.

### **Secretary – Taitia Shelow**

Send PTSA stuff to Taitia for publication

### **Co-Secretary – Mary-Noelle Fabiano**

No correspondence

She will be pushing membership, even grandparents who can join in name only and don’t have to volunteer. She will hand write notes to each staff member asking them to join. We will send letter to local businesses to see if they will join the PTSA. We will also try to get fathers to join.

Mary Noelle will be in charge of the PTSA bulletin board.

### **Old Business**

Tammy asked about “tobacco free school signs.” No one had seen then so she will locate them.

### **New Business**

Flu Vaccine Clinic – Tammy read information she received from PTA about sponsoring a community clinic. We provide the place. Suggestion made to check with school nurse first. PTSA gets some money back from charge for shots. Gordon asks if it’s possible not to take the money and lower cost of shots. Tammy will check.

Reflections – This is a national PTA program that focuses on all types of arts; kids produce a piece based on a chosen theme. It’s probably too late for us to do this year but we need someone to take it on for next year. We can still participate in theme

search. Students who submit theme idea and are picked get \$100. We probably can get grant money for supplies for the program if we do it.

Student survey – We would like to survey students about what they would like to see that PTSA could provide. Gordon says it's OK and we should go through the Student Council.

Gordon brings up SAFE schools legislation and notes how bringing even a small pocket knife to school can get kids suspended up to a full year. CMS's principals tried to talk Chatham Fair organizers out of having the game booth where you throw rings to win knives but they refused. Discussion on PTSA possibly petitioning the fair next year; the knives were supposed to be given to parents instead of kids but that didn't happen.

Gordon mentions ice cream social and outstanding bills from the last social of last year; he and a parent had to pay out of pocket when a store donation didn't come through. Discussion on whether it should be a PTSA event and if we should reimburse the money from last year. **Motion to take \$200 out of mini grants fund to reimburse Gordon and the parent** made by Deb Melanson; second by Darlene Madsen; motion passes.

It is decided the event should be under PTSA auspices; Sue Oran will chair. Money raised from Hannaford receipts can go toward expenses if we can't get donations. PTSA may do something other than ice cream one of the quarters.

### **Announcements**

A fifth grader is highly allergic to peanuts, so we need to note that when seeking food donations for school-wide events. The nurse's office has a letter available to explain what foods to avoid.

Sept. 27 is a wellness fair at MED, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for the whole community. Booths will have demonstrations of yoga, martial arts, and more; there will be a magician, fire and EMS personnel, SADD, etc.

Scrap metal can be deposited at Chatham Town Garage on CR 13 for free in September.

Raffle prize winner: Maura McKeon, \$25 Barnes and Noble gift card.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.**

**Submitted By:**

**Taitia Shelow, CMS PTSA Secretary**

**9/4/08**