

Chatham Middle School PTSA
November 3, 2009
Meeting minutes
draft

Call to Order at 6:05 p.m.

Welcome by Pres. Karen Kellogg

In attendance: Karen Kellogg, Mary-Noelle Fabiano, Taitia Shelow, Kelly Mackerer, Larry Burud, Gordon Fitting, Jen Van Brunt, Maureen Otto, Lauren Wheeler, Celeste Sisson, Jennifer Eckler, Ashley Keegan, Sue Oram, Samantha Oram, Karen Engel, Jackie McKeon

Officer's Reports:

- a. **Treasurer's Report** (Kelly Mackerer)
 - Kelly presented the report of transactions since our last meeting (see separate sheet). The only income was from memberships and bookfair. Expenses were NCBI and Peer Mediation lunches, PTA membership fees for our club and the bookfair.

- b. **President** (Karen Kellogg)
 - Approve September 2009 minutes: **Motion by Mary-Noelle, seconded by Kelly; motion passed.**
 - **Committees**
 - **Reflections** – Jen is still interested in getting this program going. It is an arts program designed by the national PTA. There was discussion on where she can find more information.
 - **School Banking** – Karen Kellogg reported the program was taken off our school computer by bank because of lack of activity. The bank said if we get it up and running again they would reinstall the program. There is also possibility of school banking club. Discussion on what to do. Gordon wondered if we could set something up with bank to establish accounts but then let families take over because interest wanes in Middle School. Karen K. will contact First Niagara and check what's available.
 - **Peer Mediation luncheon** – Thanks to Sara McKay and Kelly M. for handling the food delivery.
 - **PTSA Newsletter** – Tammy Shaw volunteered to update it and get it out in report cards.
 - **Tools for Schools** – Papers went home with kids and some were returned with people's Advantage card IDs; we have to input those numbers

- c. **Co-Secretary** (Mary-Noelle Fabiano)
 - **Correspondence** – We received a thank-you from NCBI for our \$100 luncheon donation. Mary-Noelle will send out thank-you's to bookfair volunteers.

Committee Reports:

- **Fundraising:** Jackie McKeon reported that we received approval for brick fundraiser from school board. She passed around order forms for club to review and make changes to. The plan now is to place the bricks along front of building, not just a small section of the front lawn. Price we decided upon is \$35 for 4x8" brick and \$70 for 8x8". Jackie and Taitia will work on publicity-photo, press releases, poster for events with the forms on it.

- **Membership Campaign:** Mary-Noelle Fabiano/Kelly Mackerer - Mary-Noelle explained that membership campaign is ongoing. We haven't quite hit 100 members yet but 37 staff members joined this year, which is more than last year.
- **Fall Book Fair:** Sue Oram reported we sold a little over \$1,600 in product, about \$1,000 less than in spring but we were expecting that, and goal is not to make money anyway. Scholastic changed reimbursement to 40 percent of book profit in free books, so we received \$600 to buy books. We used our allotment for several teacher requests and holiday gift collection. Students received \$1 off for bringing in food pantry item. Taitia took all donations to Chatham food pantry because we didn't have enough to split between Chatham and Ghent. Teacher Lauren Wheeler was the first staff to help us and Samantha McShane helped clean up; we had about 16 volunteers.
- **Food Co-op:** Taitia explained the program and said she would like to spread the word better. She will check with Tammy about putting it in newsletter.
- **No Effort Fundraising:** Tammy Shaw was not present at meeting so Karen K. will check how that is going.

Old Business:

- **Tutoring Program** – Karen K. reported Tammy is still working on setting up a meeting
- **Field Trips** – Discussion on whether or not PTSA wants to put together something like an “adopt-an-angel” type program so the community at large can contribute funding for students who can't afford field trips. The club talked about creating a board shaped like a bus with “tickets” people can take to pay for all or part of a trip. Jen said she would make the poster and Taitia will check if we can display it at the library or other public place. Money would have to go to PTSA and then club cuts check to the school.
- **PTSA Organize Reading groups** for “Success for Teens” – Discussion about the book, which was distributed to club members at last meeting. Michelle Hill had asked PTSA to sponsor student reading/discussion groups. PTSA members were wary of seeming to endorse a certain way of thinking and the membership present decided they would be more comfortable with such a group being done outside of school as a voluntary activity.

New Business:

- **Chairpersons needed:**
 - Lip Sync Concert – usually scheduled in winter – January
 - Turn off TV Week – late April event
 - Wellness Day – need volunteers to provide food.
- **“The American Dream: What Is It?”** – Karen K. announced this essay contest. Gordon said the school already participates
- **Protecting Children from Child Predators Parent Workshop** – Discussion on whether to sponsor one since attendance has been low at previous, similar events. Question was asked, is there something that can be done together with students and parents? Karen K. will ask Jackie Hoffman if anything else is already being done.
- **New Ideas, concerns, questions** – Jen mentions the Cinderella project for collecting dresses and formal clothing for dances, events etc. where students can come and shop for free. PTSA members offered her potential contacts and ideas to start one or maybe join an existing program.
- **Questions** on swine flu shot and form sent home. Gordon explained that the form was a survey to see how many people interested in the shot for their kids; the Health Dept would be giving shots and using the school as base. Any questions, call Larry and Gordon.

Announcements: none

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.