

**Minutes**  
**PTO General Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005**  
**7:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

**I. Welcome and Introduction**

Minutes from the November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004 general PTO meeting were presented by Co-Secretary and approved.

**II. Committee Updates and New Business**

**Technology Fund Drive**

Paul Labovitch presented Technology Committee report. The Committee has compiled a wish list of equipment needs, why it is needed and dollar amount of each piece of equipment. The goal is to raise \$35,000 through the following three efforts:

- 1) Telephone solicitation of Franklin families (goal of \$35,000 met through 300 families donating \$125-\$200 each). Since Franklin now has a tax-exempt number, matching funds from corporations where Franklin families work can be applied.
- 2) Direct solicitation of local businesses
- 3) Tournament fund-raiser

Over the next couple months, Paul will be pulling together a group of volunteers to contact families and businesses for technology drive donations.

Elizabeth Matera explained how Franklin has fallen behind all other schools in the Newton district. For example, where other schools have an average of 4-5 computers per class, Franklin only has an average of 1-2. Elizabeth also reviewed the recent four grants awarded to Franklin that allowed the purchase of the following new equipment:

Library – two computers

4<sup>th</sup> grade - five laptops, video camera, LCD Projector, personal laptop and printer

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade – overhead projector

Grant money not only goes to the purchase of equipment but also to staff training and curriculum development.

Rachel Kramer presented how her SILK grant is being used to enhance teaching in the classroom.

**Tsunami Relief**

Isabelle Thacker presented the Social Action Committee's response to Tsunami disaster. There will be a read-a-thon from January 24<sup>th</sup>-Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. Pledge forms will go home January 18<sup>th</sup> and

should be returned with pledges by February 9<sup>th</sup>. Pledges can be a flat rate, per page rate or per minute of reading rate. Pledges will be donated to US Fund for UNICEF. In addition, there will be a coin drive for chores done by Franklin students. This money will also go to UNICEF.

### **Family Movie Night**

Michelle Roover and Eleanor Boschert-Ambrosio presented Family Movie Night, which is a new PTO event at Franklin scheduled for Friday night, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Kids come to school in pajamas and bring their sleeping bags to come see a movie (to be announced) in the Franklin auditorium. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Ticket price to be determined. Volunteers are needed to help set up, clean up and cashier.

### **Apple Picking Outing**

Isabelle Thacker presented another new PTO fund-raiser at Franklin. On this coming October 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a coordinated effort between Franklin, Peirce and Williams to pick apples at an area orchard. 75% of apple sales will be donated by orchard to Franklin. Last year, 40 families from Peirce participated and raised \$1500 for the Peirce PTO.

### **Mid-Winter Coffeehouse**

The Mid-Winter Coffeehouse is scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup> from 7 pm to 11 pm. Featured artists include Rob Siegel, Cindy Mapes and Michael Troy. To buy tickets in advance, contact Maire Anne Diamond. The Coffeehouse is for ages 21 years and older due to selling alcohol.

### **International Night**

International Night celebrates the diversity of the Franklin community. There will be international dances during the day. During the evening, there will be a potluck dinner, international performances and passports to take to country booths. Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up in the evening. The next planning meeting is set for January 18<sup>th</sup> at Angela Coffidis' house.

### **Monte Carlo Night**

Monte Carlo Night is scheduled for Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. This year, due to popular demand, the event will be held at Post 440 on California Street in Watertown. The next planning meeting is set for January 18<sup>th</sup> at Linda Farina's house.

### **III. Feature Presentation: New Report Card Format – Cindy Marchand & Janet Buerklin (Coordinator for Social Studies, K-8)**

The rationale behind the new report card format is the need to create a District-wide reporting system among Newton schools and to incorporate educational standards by which students can be measured.

Evaluation of students will be comprised of three components:

- 1) New progress report
- 2) Parent-teacher conferences
- 3) Portfolio system

Janet reviewed the new report card format which incorporates:

- 1) Performance level – progress against a standard
- 2) Progress level – progress against the individual student

Because of time constraints, teacher comments will mainly focus on students' social and emotional growth as opposed to their academic performance.

### **IV. Treasurer's Report**

PTO support (i.e., dues) exceeded goal by \$450

Monies have been appropriated to the principal's discretionary fund, the teacher's fund and to the technology fund.

Original works did not make as much money this year compared to prior years. There is discussion of taking a break from Original Works next year.

Heather Dias and Chris Weikart were the lucky recipients of the door prizes – tickets to the Children's Museum and to the DeCordova Museum.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Roover, Co-Secretary  
Lisa Wilson, Co-Secretary