

FRANKLIN PTO GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1/18/2007

Executive Committee members present: Co-Chairs, Elizabeth Roll and Kim Freedman; Treasurer, Terri Romanelli; Secty., Walter Devine

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Elizabeth Roll, welcoming remarks and introductions by Elizabeth Roll

Introduction and welcome of Newton MECTO Director, Lisa Reed.

New business:

Budget highlights presented by Treasurer, Terri Romanelli

An income and expense summary sheet was passed out and questions about any items were solicited.

Kindergarten Soccer came in at \$4,000.00 actual, against a projected \$1500.00, a wonderful result, special recognition was given to Deb Rooney, present at the meeting, for the job she and her husband did running the program. Spring registration is underway and about at ½ capacity already.

Movie night for tomorrow night is ready to go, first show is completely sold out, and second show has only 10 -15 tickets left. Anticipating a great time for all.

Mini grant committee has partially funded 3 separate submissions for the second ½ of the year:

1. 1st grade program for cd and cassette Walkman
2. 2nd grade science textbooks for the guided reading library
3. P.E. for partial funding of a Circus unit

More quality submissions were received than funded, looking forward we may want to think about enlarging the program.

Other committee reports.

- the coffee house is rounding into shape, Feb 10th from 7-10:30, doors open at 6:30 for schmoozing, music, comedy, conversation, and some light libation, all-n-all a great time is expected for all that attend.
- Spring Auction, our largest fundraiser is taking shape also, Friday night March 9th, 7-11:30 at the 440. Appetizers, desserts, and a cash bar, potentially live music as well. Tons of great raffles, price is down this year 15per person / 25 per couple, and bargains galore.

First guest speaker:

Lisa Reed, director of the Newton METCO program was welcomed and introduced. She presented some handouts and summarized the history, purpose, and structure of the program. She fielded some questions, and then presented a video of articulating the perspectives of some of the participants in the program. Principal Marchand then offered some insights as well and they both fielded a few questions.

Principal's Remarks:

Principal Marchand then spoke on a couple of issues:

- A new program has just been started, a 5th grade coaching peer program, where 5th grade students work with the younger kids in P.E. as “coaches”. Providing support for the younger kids, and imparting some responsibilities on the 5th graders.
- The school Committee voted the other day to move the plowshares preschool out of Franklin and into another space. This will involve the kindergarten space after school also. More details to follow.

NNHS Referendum discussion:

Dorie Zaleznick and Ann Lerner were present from the “yes” side of the issue, and Jane France from the “no” side of the issue were introduced. Both sides gave opening remarks, explaining their positions and then fielded questions from those assembled. Lots of good information was discussed, in a very open and considerate environment.

The guest speakers were thanked, and after brief closing remarks the meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Kin Freedman.