

## FRANKLIN PTO 1/29/09 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Tracy Soehle - President  
Eva Zervos - Vice-President  
Deb Rooney - Treasurer  
Lisa Chedekel - Secretary  
Amy Kelly - Principal

Call to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcome by Tracy Soehle, who spoke about upcoming events and the awarding of \$6,000 in PTO mini-grants to Franklin teachers and staff. Much of the grant money went to technology/literacy programs (see full listing below). Soehle said she hopes to form a PTO grant subcommittee to handle grant applications. Note: PTO co-president Susan LaPierre resigned in December, citing personal reasons; her position will be filled before the start of the '09-10 school year.

Principal Kelly, responding to a parent's question, commented that new procedures in the cafeteria were "making for a much more peaceful lunch experience." She said the rules, including remaining in one's seat, were really not "new," but simply clarifications of existing rules. She also addressed a parent's question about how decisions about outdoor recess in cold weather were made, saying students were kept indoors when temperature/wind chill fell below a certain level.

Janet Buerklin, Newton schools' coordinator of history/social studies, was guest speaker. She spoke about the history curriculum in each of the elementary grades, saying her office was in the midst of reviewing and updating the 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, which focuses on US history. In response to parents' questions, she acknowledged that there were some discrepancies between the existing 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum and material on the MCAS test – and she mentioned her own concerns about uncertainty regarding the future status of history requirements and the MCAS. There was a back-and-forth with parents about those issues. Information on the history curriculum is available at <http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/history/expectations.html>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

No votes were taken.

\* The PTO mini-grants awarded to teachers and staff in December 2008 were:

- \$1,036 to 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for a document camera, projector and AV cart
- \$598 to the library for two sets of animal/nature books to be used for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade projects
- \$378 for two language/literacy specialists to attend a conference in Jan 09
- \$767 for Learning Center materials for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders
- \$366.51 for problem-solving games/materials for school psychologist/speech
- \$400 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers for machine science unit
- \$600 to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher for a listening center (CD player and materials)
- \$300 for books for inclusion facilitator

- \$223.34 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade books for literacy aides
- \$600 for printing costs for kindergarten class project
- \$233.76 for materials for writing program, to literacy specialist
- \$600 for printing costs for 1<sup>st</sup> grade class project
- \$400 for audiovisual equipment for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom

Minutes taken by: L. Chedekel