

**Minutes
PTO General Meeting
June 15, 2005
7:30 pm**

Present:

Maria Rufo-Bueno, Co-President
Isabelle Paine Thacker, Co-President
Michelle Roover, Co-Secretary
Lisa Wilson, Co-Secretary
Sandie Wong, Vice-President
28 others in attendance

I. Welcome and General Business

Secretary Report//Approval of Minutes – Michelle Roover

Minutes from the May 4, 2005 general PTO meeting were presented by Co-Secretary, Michelle Roover, and approved.

School Council Nominations/Elections

There was a motion to accept David Bindman and Lisa Gresser as new School Council committee members for next year.

Executive Board Nominations/Elections

There was a motion to accept the following individuals as members of the PTO Executive Board for the 2005-2006 school year:

Maria Rufo-Bueno, Co-President
Elizabeth Roll, Co-President
Walter Devine, Secretary
Eleanor Boschert-Ambrosio, Treasurer
Sandie Wong, Vice-President

Maria Rufo-Bueno thanked Isabelle Thacker, Michelle Roover and Lisa Wilson for all their work on the PTO Board this year.

Treasurer Report/Budget Highlights – Eleanor Boschert-Ambrosio

- Monte Carlo netted \$16,000 this year.
- Cookbook sales were great this year.
- Tech Drive money will be moved into a separate account in the fall 2005.
- Budget for this year pays for next year's budget.
- Movie Night netted \$394.
- Overall, there is a surplus of \$3,252.37 from this year's budget.

II. Committee Updates

The end-of-the-year annual Franklin school picnic and parent-teacher softball game is scheduled for Monday June 20th at 6 pm. Rain date is Tuesday June 21st. Bring a picnic dinner for your family and a dessert to share. If planning to play softball, please bring a glove (bats will be provided).

On Wednesday June 22nd, from 9 am to 9 pm, New England Mobile Book Fair will be sponsoring “Franklin day”. 10% of sales of all books purchased that day will be donated back to the Franklin PTO.

III. Principal and Teacher Remarks

Cindy Marchand highlighted the Summer Reading Incentive Program developed by the School Council this year. A packet about this program, including a summer reading list, went out to all Franklin families. Students who read (and keep a reading log) for 28 days are entitled to redeem a coupon for a free ice cream at Cabot’s.

This year, the School Council also looked at homework policies across Newton Schools and came up with one for Franklin. Next year, Cindy will hold an evening for all parents to go over this policy in detail.

The staffing allocation at Franklin school for next year fared very well. There will be 19 regular education classes and 3 REACH classes, one for third, fourth and fifth grades.

Next year, Donna Devaney will move from first grade to second grade. Mrs. Sheehy put in for a voluntary transfer to the Bowen School.

There will be two new kindergarten teachers and one new first grade teacher next year.

Franklin did not lose any library staffing time. Elizabeth Matera will still work full-time as Franklin’s school librarian.

Franklin went up 9% in the third grade MCAS literacy scores.

There will be lots of room location changes next year.

On the last day of school, kids will be sent home with class lists and a “promotion card” indicating their teacher for next year.

The classroom configuration for next year is as follows: four kindergarten classes; three classes for first, second and third grades and; four classes for fourth and fifth grades. These numbers include one REACH class for each of the third, fourth and fifth grades.

The largest class size next year will be 24 students.

Cindy thanked all parents for volunteering their time at PTO and other initiatives throughout the school year.

Thanks to money raised from technology and help from Diana Freedman and Steve Silveman, Cindy was able to purchase two more computers this year. Diana and Steve were also able to procure three more computers for

Rachel Kramer announced that there is a “viable” teacher softball team (8-9 teachers) that’s been put together for the June 20th picnic.

Rachel thanked the PTO and all parents for their efforts volunteering this year. She mentioned that the fourth grade field trips to the Harvard Museum of Natural History and the State House were wonderful this year and could only have been possible through the field trip subsidy provided through the PTO.

Door prize winners included Paul Rensing (Night of Comedy tickets) and Kim Freedman (basketball tickets).

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.