

## FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO MINUTES

### **General Meeting – October 11, 2005 - 7:30PM – School Auditorium**

Recording Secretary: Walter Devine

-Introductions by Maria Rufo-Bueno and reading of PTO Mission Statement

-PTO forms on green paper and discussion of paper reduction goals, request for input as to how we can further reduce usage of paper

-Agenda for meeting set forth

-Maria then presented the Treasurer's report:

gift wrap drive is ending this week

dues are running a bit behind last years pace, appeal to get those in

apple picking day was a great day and raised around \$1,800.00

Photo-Day went well \$1,200 raised

No original works this year, we'll consider for next year

Cookbook sales have been going well

We still have lots of sweatshirts

No cans for technology this year

-open questions on the budget

1 question from a parent (Galen Boyer – kindergarten parent) on how funds are directed, question addressed by Maria and Principal Marchand.

Principal's remarks:

Blue zone remains a real problem, especially for afternoon pick-up and is a real problem for both the community and the students, lengthy discussion ensued with ideas being sought and discussed. Possibility of shutting it down completely exists if parents continue to create unsafe conditions.

Boston magazine article rating the top 100 elementary schools discussed all 15 Newton schools were in the top 100. Franklin at 55. discussion ensued concerning ranking as several other schools in the city were ranked 2,3,4,5... why the difference? One factor the website noted was the # of new computers/student ratio. Also MCAS issues on 4<sup>th</sup> grade math test cited. This lead to a discussion as principal Marchand expressed her opinion that language embedded questions seemed to be the problem. She suggested when doing homework with their children parents have kids highlight key words of operations in the homework and help them go bay to those words and find what they need to do and discuss what the highlighted terms are asking the student to do. Same process on multi-step problems, highlight the steps and go back through.

Long composition was good

We have a visiting teacher from Beijing in the school for 1 or 2 days a week for the next month or so

EI, early intervention program will be extended into the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for the 1<sup>st</sup> ½ of this year, and also some after school support will be available

11/3/2005 will feature a technology presentation with principal Marchand and 2 teachers, will demonstrate where we are and what we need and why and will kick off the technology drive, details later in committee discussions.

Katrina Relief fund – we are working with an individual elementary school in Gulfport, MS. One read-a-thon has been completed, and another is coming up. We have a personal connection with the school and will be able to keep up with their progress throughout the year.

Introduction of teacher representatives:

Joan Yospin and Lynne Georgian-Cohen.

#### OPEN UP FOR COMMITTEE REPS

Ellen – Innesbrook wrapping paper drive. Roughly 14k sold we get half. Participation was down a bit this year, only 145 packets came back. Participation drops sharply in grades 3-5. discussion of perhaps doing something else next year. Some parents expl. multiple kids, and still have product from prior years...

Megan – School appreciation day is this Saturday and much needs to be done

Connection – help needed in distribution

Franklin web site – up and running any help always welcome

Janet, Melissa, Theresa, Carmen – Beggars Bash, Halloween fun for all 10/28/05 6:30 – 8:30. Costumes, games, haunted house. Parents must accompany kids Tickets \$5 per person, \$20 per family must buy in advance, many volunteers still needed.

Joanne - International night – March 9<sup>th</sup> details forthcoming

Julie – Understanding our differences – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade great opportunity for in classroom experience, fall 4<sup>th</sup> grade, spring 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Heather – hospitality – food for meetings and teacher apprec. Day in the spring

Spring auction and dance Saturday 4/16, Post 440 silent auction, auction, and raffles, this year moving away from the gaming aspects and will look to do a nice dinner and provide music as well, also cash bar

Color day – next meeting

Bela - Social action – Walk for hunger, sing-along at the Swedish home and other activities all ideas welcome

Melanie – creative arts and sciences – working on next years events, 9k spent per year bringing 18 programs into the school works in conjunction with various curriculum, singers, authors etc.. to broaden subject matter and demonstrate real application

Also room parents, should all be in place and making themselves know to parents concurrently

Kathy – Library volunteers is a great place to get involved, also as we lost our library aide to budget cuts need is acute.

Cindy – frankly speaking and mid winter coffee house (2/4/6)

Carol – Spring Fair this year will combine with Tag Sale and Plant Sale

Greer – absent but sent note seeking any old toner / ink cartridges, also open to old cell phone, batteries etc... great opportunity to raise some funds while helping out the environment also! Also seeking other to possibly coordinate a recycle drive.

Health and Safety, back to blue zone issues, really we all need to do our part as the situation continues to cause real problems for everyone.

Technology drive, Early November meeting followed by a mailer

5<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation Chair needed yearbook and place also needed.

Principal Marchand inquired as to who participated in the summer reading program as only 16 people got ice cream a Cabot's. ?? what the problems were and should we drop the program. Discussion ensued, will keep the program and modify to try and raise participation and keep kids reading through the summer months.

Raffle was held, prizes awarded and meeting adjourned.