

**Minutes**  
**PTO General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004**  
**7:30 pm – 9:00 pm**

There were 39 people present. The meeting commenced at 7:35 pm

Board Members Present: Maria Rufo-Bueno and Isabelle Thacker, Co-Presidents  
Eleanor Boschert Ambrosio, Treasurer  
Michelle Roover, Co-Secretary  
Cindy Marchand, Principal

**I. Welcome and General Business**

Minutes from the 5/13/2004 general PTO meeting and the 9/30/2004 general PTO meeting were approved.

Eleanor Boschert-Ambrosio reviewed the PTO 2004-2005 budget. The Gift Wrap netted \$9,200 and Original Works is expected to net about \$2000. A motion to approve the budget was approved.

Motion to elect Christian Rivero as new member of the School Council was approved.

Isabelle Thacker re-introduced and reviewed Omni Pass option for Franklin families. Letter was sent out to Franklin families to sign up for Omni Pass.

A citywide group, entitled the Citywide Class Size Action Committee, has been established to work on issues related to classroom size across Newton Public Schools. Cindy Shechtman has been elected to represent Franklin on this committee. More parent volunteers are needed to work on this committee. If interested in volunteering, please contact Isabelle Thacker or Maria Rufo-Bueno, PTO Co-Presidents.

A volunteer is also needed to take over redemption of cell phone and ink jet cartridges. Redemption of these items poses an excellent opportunity to get kids more involved in recycling. If interested, please contact Isabelle who, thus far, has been doing the boxing up and redeeming of cell phones and cartridges.

The PTO has signed a contract with Hayward Photography (in Milton) as the school portrait photographer for next school year (in September) and beyond. A sample of Hayward's portraits was passed around for all in attendance to view. Hayward also offered to set up a "Family Photo Day" at Franklin as a new fund-raiser with a portion of the sitting fee charge to be donated to Franklin. A minimum of 20 families are needed to participate. A parent volunteer is needed to coordinate this effort. This volunteer will be in charge of selecting the date and location. Hayward will provide the flyer. If interested in volunteering, please contact Isabelle or Maria.

**II. Committee Reports**

The fall Scholastic Book Fair will be held before and after school on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Books arrive on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to help unpack the books. This year, gift certificates are being offered. Parents can pre-pay and have their children shop for books before and after school using their certificates. Each certificate is worth \$15.

Thus far, a total of 80 copies of the Franklin Cookbook have been sold. Cookbooks make a wonderful holiday gift, representing a wide array of recipes submitted by Franklin parents as well as area restaurants and chefs. Cookbooks will be sold at the Book Fair and at tonight's PTO meeting. A flyer will also go out so that additional Cookbooks can be ordered.

There was a discussion of holding the Beggar's Bash and/or the Harvest Fair next year. Many expressed missing the Beggar's Bash this year, especially missing kids dressed up in costumes, window painting and Halloween community spirit. The Harvest Fair was thought to compete with soccer and other Saturday activities. It might be "overkill" to hold both the Beggar's Bash and the Harvest Fair next year. Many parents stated a preference for returning to having the Beggar's Bash in lieu of a Harvest Fair. Volunteers, however, are needed if a Beggar's Bash is to occur next year. Lack of volunteers was cited as the main reason the Beggar's Bash was not held this year.

With respect to this year's Spring Fair, there are currently no volunteers working on it. Volunteers are needed to make it happen.

The Spring Tag Sale is being planned for May under the leadership of Franklin parent, Kim Freedman.

Cindy Marchand dispelled the "rumor" that she will not be returning to Franklin next year in order to pursue a Superintendent position.

Cindy introduced Greg Hurrey, English Language Arts Coordinator for the Newton Public Schools. Greg is responsible for the Newton Balanced Literacy Program and for professional development opportunities.

### **III. Feature Presentation – Greg Hurray**

Greg thoroughly reviewed the Newton Schools Language Arts Program. A handout was provided to all those in attendance.

It was mentioned that at Franklin, students in grades 2-5 will get an additional language arts assessment this school year. It was also mentioned that a grant has been secured to train teachers to implement the new language arts curriculum. Pieces of the new citywide progress report incorporate objectives that reflect the new language arts objectives.

### **IV. General Questions/Comments**

Linda Farina mentioned that the Spring Auction Committee is trying to put together a Celebrity Poker Table. If anyone knows of a celebrity that might want to participate, please contact Linda.

Cindy mentioned three upcoming dates to review the new Progress Report format.

November 29<sup>th</sup> – evening – Peirce

December 1<sup>st</sup> – morning – Peirce

December 6<sup>th</sup> – evening - Bowen