

# FRANKLIN PTO GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

## 3/25/2008

Executive Committee members present: Co-Chairs, Kim Freedman and Susan Lapierre; Vice-President Eleanor Boschert; Treasurer, Terri Romanelli; Secty., Walter Devine, Principal Ruth Chapman

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Kim Freedman, welcoming remarks and introductions by Kim Freedman.

Special recognition was made to the Spring Auction Committee, and the Multi-Cultural day Committees for the tremendous effort they put in that made each of those, now signature events, go off so well. It really takes a committed cast to pull off events of this scale.

### **New business:**

Change a light presentation from Julia Wolfe – orders due by next Friday

More information is being generated on school budgets and override issues and more information will be coming out. Tomorrow night Franklin, Burr and Williams PTO's will be at Burr to discuss the issues surrounding the override and the budgets. Jeff Young, and Alderman and school Committee members will be present.

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Susan Boyer, Chairperson of the playground committee, and other members presented a progress report on what they have been doing.

At last May's PTO general meeting Susan Boyer stood up and asked why the PTO was holding on to the funds we have been saving up for rebuilding / refurbishing our playgrounds and was selected to chair a committee to look into all aspects of our playground situation.

Susan indicated that once formed, the committee decided to tackle the "whole shebang",  
They had open call for members many times  
1<sup>st</sup> assessed needs speaking with teachers  
set initial fundraising goals  
and evaluated proposals

a Powerpoint presentation was then made by Sue Membrino:

- all playground equipment is appropriate for children ages 5-12 currently on the K1 and big playgrounds, now respectively designated as East and West playgrounds.

- East playground is inadequate for the # of kids and in poor repair, and is not currently ADA compliant
- West playground is ADA compliant (12 yrs old) and basically not very pretty -- "it is what it is" and needs improvement
- Costs range from \$15k to a couple of hundred thousand dollars for playgrounds today, 50k is what is needed at a minimum for our size and requirements in a playground
- Why not make one playground? K/1 teachers said no way, and a recital of reasons advocating for K/1 was given, it was also mentioned that with careful design we could include grade 2 into the playground
- Modular expansion is currently not on the agenda and they would take the playground into consideration
- The committee decided to work on the East playground
- The school district owns all the land and will take care of abutters
- Some drainage issues have arisen on the site and are in the process of being identified and solutions being considered
- As of the end of Feb. this year the Tot Lot can be removed and West playground can be expanded in that way
- Stephanie from Parks and rec recommended 3 vendors and quotes were solicited from them
- Information was sought from other schools, Angier was helpful, and Ultiplay was selected as the vendor
- Their proposal is that we move forward and build this summer and then implement a fundraising campaign and go through the process again and hopefully build next year

#### Budget:

- raise 100k for both playgrounds split equally we have about 50k to dedicate to the east playground
- Spring 09 we are slated to get the 12.5k marathon money, Stephanie to coordinate disbursement
- Stephanie from Parks and rec spoke briefly indicated that the East playground is not in a condemned state and will likely be serviceable for the next 3 years or so, other schools have an annual budget to maintain the playgrounds. She indicated that she has never seen a group move so quickly through this process and will be available to us as a resource moving forward.

Joe McMahon from Ultiplay spoke briefly on the process and time frame, and community build option, where under supervision and guidance from them we assemble the structure ourselves (can be a 20-30% savings in total cost). Lots of work, generally done in a weekend, Thursday through Saturday build, Stephanie can also help there as well.

The proposal as presented was for 50k and included installation from the vendor.

No real q and a as aside from exec board and committee members only 6 or 7 members were present.

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The guest speakers were thanked, the time and effort they have put in to this point recognized, and after brief closing remarks the meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Kim Freedman.