

**Minutes of PTO General Meeting**  
**September 30, 2004**

There were 36 people present. The meeting commenced at 7:35 p.m.

Board Members present: Maria Rufo-Bueno and Isabelle Thacker  
Eleanor Boschert-Ambrosio  
Michelle Roover and Lisa Wilson  
Cindy Marchand

- I Welcome and Introductions - Maria Rufo-Bueno and Isabelle Thacker
- II Nomination and acceptance of Michelle Roover and Lisa Wilson as Co-Secretaries.
- III Mission Statement - A new Mission Statement was read by Maria Rufo-Bueno. (Copies available on request).
- IV PTO Communications - Isabelle Thacker announced that from here on in, all Franklin PTO Board communications will be printed on "surgical/scrub green" paper - so if you see it in your child's backpacks - don't throw it out until you read it! Also noted, the web site is updated on a regular basis by Megan McNulty.
- V Treasurer's Report - Eleanor Boschert-Ambrosio reviewed the proposed budget for the 2004-2005 school year. The estimated budget is \$41,000. PTO dues are currently at 35% - other schools are up as much as 61%.

We will be having the usual fundraisers including gift wrap, Original Works, and the Harvest Fair. Due to lack of volunteers, we are unable to have a Beggar's Bash this year.

Miscellaneous fund-raisers will include rebates from Staples for Ink Jet Cartridges and by encouraging people to sign up for a Target credit card with Franklin Elementary School in West Newton as the

Designee. Also noted that we will be selling sweatshirts as well as t-shirts this year.

Discussed the hope of reviving Box Tops for Education this year. The goal is \$600.00. For other ways to support Franklin go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)

Reminder to continue bringing in bottles and cans to support technology - note that plastic and juice containers are not accepted. Room parents will help to coordinate taking turns to do pick-up and redemption.

- VI Principal's Remarks - Cindy Marchand - Cindy introduced the teacher representatives for this year. They are Rachel Kramer and Tina Gurney. Cindy reminded everyone that if you plan to volunteer in ways that involve your direct contact with students, you must complete a CORI form. This form will be valid for three (3) years after this year.

Safety rules and procedures - Cindy discussed the importance of teaching about Stranger Danger and encouraging those children who walk, to walk in groups to help avoid any danger.

Progress reports - last year, Franklin piloted a new Progress Report, which will now be adopted citywide. Franklin has also been chosen to pilot several programs in the third and fourth grades.

## VII New Business

There was a discussion regarding the need to reduce the amount of paper currently being used for communications. All ideas on how to reduce paper and cut costs gratefully accepted. Board members will discuss distribution of the Connection so that only one copy per family is sent home to help with this effort.

There was an issue raised about the fact that some classes were being excluded from recess as punishment for bad behavior. An investigation will be made into the practices of disciplinary actions and

who is involved - is it the individual child who is being punished or the entire class? The board will also investigate the guidelines/mandates for school children concerning snack/recess time.

VIII Tax Exempt Status - Laura Thompson presented the news that we are now a tax-exempt school. This number will always be the same and there is no separate Employer/Federal Tax number. This means that we no longer have to pay sales tax, which gives us a 5% increase in gift-wrap sales, among other things.

IX Committee Open House - Committees presented their requirements for the year in terms of volunteers, donations, time, etc. Sign up sheets were present for people to volunteer at all levels, for all committees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wilson/Michelle Roover