

Davis Hill Elementary PTA

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2008

Resource Room

I. Meeting came to order at 7pm.

II. October 2008 Meeting Minutes Approval

A motion was made by Jay Norton to accept the minutes from the October 2008 meeting as written. Deanna Yahres made a second motion. The minutes were approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

- a. A budget through Nov. 18th was distributed for review and discussion. A copy of the budget is available upon request.
- b. An invoice for ~\$6100.00 is expected for fall fundraiser with an approximate profit of \$5900. Thanks again to Colleen Adams for coordinating this major fundraiser.
- c. Scrip gift card fundraising has been very successful. Meredith Quinn reported profits through November expecting more than \$1000 total through the December order. Since some orders involve large amounts of money, 2 school pick-up times have been arranged rather than sending gift cards home in backpacks.
- d. The Holiday Pie fundraiser was also well supported.
- e. A tax return for the 2007/2008 year was prepared and filed without an expected professional expenditure of \$600.

IV. Families in Need Account

The turkey trot has traditionally funded the families in need (FIN) account. The FIN account has provided Davis Hill families in need with support for back-to-school, holidays and summer recreation. The account has a balance of ~\$2100.00. The board recommends a change in direction for the account. A proposal was made and unanimously accepted to distribute the balance of the FIN fund shared equally between two local charities, Joseph's Project and Wachusett Food Pantry. Going forward, the PTA will select a charity for the annual turkey trot donation. This year, the donation will benefit Help at H.O.M.E. - Welcome Aldrich Relief Fund providing fuel and other assistance to Holden families. Pledges for this year's turkey trot are being collected for 2 weeks after Thanksgiving.

V. Ski Swap

Jeff Copeland is again coordinating the annual ski and sports swap. Consignments are accepted on Fri. Dec. 5th from 5-9pm. Two vendors will also set up to sell. The swap opens to the public Sat. Dec. 6th from 9-1pm (suggest 12pm instead). 20% of the proceeds are returned to the PTA. Jeff asked for assistance getting the flyers approved by the district and distributed. Mr. Aucoin has the signs for the school and Jeff will contact The Landmark. Meredith will help Jeff close out the cashboxes on Sat.

VI. Holiday Fair

The last craft night is scheduled for Nov. 21. Have enough wrappers but could still use some help running tables on the day of the fair.

VII. Author's Day Budget

Gina Keating will again coordinate Author's Day. Gina has identified that it is difficult to find an author willing to come for a half day within the \$600 budget amount. Gina has request an increase to \$1200. which will allow for a full day, more intimate and quality presentation. A vote to approve an increase to \$1200.00 was unanimously accepted.

VIII. Challenge Course

Coach Howell attended the meeting to make a presentation of the status of the Davis Hill challenge course. A summer inspection resulted in renewal of a license to run the course through Feb. 9, 2009. During its first annual inspection, it was noted that there were some problems with the design namely, the need to include shock absorbers on the cabling system at an estimated cost of \$4000. Last year, only 3 elements were used which did not include the cables in question. This most recent inspection recommended that the active 3 elements also have these upgrades. Central Office is not likely to financially support these changes for a challenge course in an elementary school. We will continue with the course as planned this winter but will likely not be able to continue unless parent fundraising was obtained to support the system upgrades. A suggestion was made to perhaps have the turkey trot next year support the improvements to the challenge course.

IX. Grant Applications

- a. Mrs. Dymek submitted information on a grant available for field trip bussing. Laura Riach will follow up with the grant application.
- b. Lois Johansen has applied for a PTA Take Your Family to School Week grant for a reading night planned for the first week in February.

X. Facebook

After considering different aspects of the social networking site, it has been decided it would be too difficult to monitor the friends list and therefore further efforts to develop this will be discontinued. We hope parents can use the school directory, family events and PTA meetings as a mechanism for connecting with each other.

XI. Movie Night

Movie night will be coordinated this year by Kerri Lebreton and scheduled for sometime in January.

XII. PTA Closet

The PTA closet has moved to a larger storage area. We will buy some shelving supports to organize the area. The new area is locked. See Mr. Norton for the key if you need access.

XIII. After-School Clubs

- a. Two DI teams have formed with 7 students each led by parent volunteers. A third team may also be forming.
- b. The math team has already started with ~10 students on the team this year.
- c. Lego teams will start after the holidays. We need leaders for both a 5th grade and 3rd grade team. Please consider helping out. 4th grade leaders have already signed on. This year we are also going to have a 2nd grade team thanks to parent volunteers. We should have plenty of legos for all teams but continue to send in your used legos whenever they are available.

XIV. PTA Bylaws

The bylaws have been posted to the Davis Hill website. Please review and submit comments by the end of January since they are due for renewal in Feb. 2009.

XV. Principal's News

- a. Mr. Norton wanted to acknowledge the overwhelming community response he sees at family nights and the tremendous support of in-school volunteers.
- b. Mr. Norton mentioned that K-2 parent/teacher conferences have just finished and were well received. Most parent feedback is questioning why the conferences were not scheduled beyond grade 2.
- c. A parent questioned the policy change regarding sending in money for the Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast. A discussion regarding this and teacher's gift policies ensued.

XVI. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

<i>Next Meeting:</i>	<i>Thursday, January 22 7pm</i>
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