



# Davis Hill Elementary PTA

## Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2008

Resource Room

- I. Meeting came to order at 7:05pm.** Welcome and introductions to this year's board members: Lois Johansen, Michelle Porter – Co-Presidents; Donna Mann, Laura Riach – Co-VP's; Meredith Ramsey – Treasurer, Deneen Barclay – Secretary. Thanks are given to last year's board members.
- II. May 2008 Meeting Minutes Approval**

A motion was made by Michele DiLoreto to accept the minutes from the May 2008 meeting as written. Nancy Alzamorra made a second motion. The minutes were approved.
- III. Membership**
  - a. Membership for the 2008/2009 year-to-date is comparable to last year at 132 parents and teachers. Approximately 50 of the 132 members were not enrolled last year.
  - b. Approximately \$500. will be paid in dues to the Mass PTA. A general discussion ensued regarding the conversion from a PTA to a PTO. The primary benefit is being able to keep the dues within our own school. The board has and will continue to pursue the idea.
- IV. Volunteers**
  - a. Volunteer response has been great overall. There are 151 volunteers spread across 32 volunteer opportunities. Many assignments have been made or are in progress. Thank you!
  - b. The Fall Festival (10/17) and Holiday Fair (12/12) are large family programs that could still use of few hands. Volunteer if you can!
  - c. Kim McCarthy spoke about the food needs of the Wachusett Food Pantry. Davis Hill will once again coordinate monthly food drives to support this local need. Volunteers are needed to greet the children the morning of the drive. Robin Pratt, Deneen Barclay and Donna Mann will help out. All are invited to help any first Wed. of the month at 8:45am.
- V. Ice Cream Social**

This welcome back-to-school family night was very well attended. Many families were observed on the grounds having fun. Need to add in non-dairy freezer pops next year.
- VI. Enrichment Programs**

Many of last year's enrichment programs will be returning. Currently looking for something new in the science category. Wingmasters is coming soon in November.
- VII. Budget**

The 2008/2009 initial budget was distributed for review and discussion. Colleen Adams made a motion to accept the budget as written. Nancy Alzamorra made a second motion. The budget was approved. A copy of the budget is available upon request.
- VIII. Fundraising**
  - a. Colleen Adams is coordinating the Genevieve's Fall Fundraiser through 10/8. This is the largest fundraiser of the year supporting the majority of the PTA programs.
  - b. A new fundraiser being coordinated by Meredith Quinn will be started in October offering purchase of gift cards at face value with a % of return to the PTA. An example order form was distributed.

- c. Another new fundraiser offering pies provided by Wilson Farms in Lexington will be in place for delivery by Thanksgiving. Testers will be offered at the fall festival.

#### **IX. Upcoming Events**

- a. Spaghetti Supper 10/3 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sargent’s Camp fundraiser
- b. Fall Festival 10/17
- c. Veteran’s Day 10/30: Placement of 75 flags honoring each Holden veteran, 11/10: Program involving teachers and students
- d. Holiday Fair 12/12

#### **X. Web Site/Email**

- a. Meeting dates and minutes are posted on the Davis Hill website <http://www.wrsd.net/davishill/> once approved. Meeting notes will be emailed to PTA members as well. Use PTA email [DavisHillPTA@netscape.net](mailto:DavisHillPTA@netscape.net) to contact us.
- b. A parent made a request for a PTA social networking page to be used as another vehicle for general communications. Donna Mann is working to set this up while ensuring proper security with respect to access.
- c. A parent made a request to use the website as much as possible to communicate with parents.

#### **XI. Boxtops, Campbell Soup Labels, Spirit Wear**

- a. These fundraising activities will continue this year.
- b. Sign up at Big Y to award education express points to our school for equipment purchases.

#### **XII. Grant Writing/PTA Bylaw Revision**

- a. The national and state level PTA organizations offer many grants to fund local programs like Healthy Lifestyles and Take Your Family to School Week. Volunteers with special skills and experience in grant writing would be welcomed! Please contact us!
- b. The PTA Bylaws are due for renewal in Feb. The board will be working on this activity over the coming months. A parent made a request to post the bylaws on the website for everyone to read and input. Michelle Porter will follow up.

#### **XIII. School Council**

Mr. Aucoin will send home information to parents about the School Council, a group comprised of an equal number of parents and teachers that makes recommendations for a school improvement plan. The council meets during the afternoon of the first Thursday of the month. A vote for new members will only be required if more than 4 parents would like to join the group this year.

#### **XIV. PTA Closet Clean Up**

The storage rooms will be cleaned out after the fall festival. The PTA closet will move into a larger area for storage. Be on the lookout for the call for help!

#### **XV. Other Business**

- a. Mr. Miner presented a slide show of two classrooms enjoying the newly constructed outdoor classroom on the Davis Hill nature trail. Over the summer, Mr. Miner and 2 school dads built the structure primarily out of recycled materials. The outdoor classroom provides many opportunities for extension of the science curriculum.
- b. The school directory should be printed by the end of next week. A suggestion was made to add total class size to the lists to assist room parents.

#### **XVI. Principal’s Business: Mark Aucoin**

- a. Mr. Aucoin had a trouble-free encounter with a black bear on the school grounds one afternoon recently.
- b. An objective for this year is to explore ways to use less paper.
- c. The principal’s coffee will be held before each PTA meeting at 6:30pm and provides an open forum to discuss any school issues or suggestions. In general, please feel free to communicate directly with Mr. Aucoin about any concerns you may have.

- d. Mr. Aucoin will discuss MCAS scores next month. The scores from the current 5<sup>th</sup> grade were among the best in state for math.
- e. Mr. Aucoin explained the purpose for the 'translation memo'.
- f. The school staff will promote a theme of 'Respect' this year by encouraging the children to greet peers and adults, to look people in the eye when speaking, to constructively handle themselves in the hallways, classrooms, playgrounds and busses. The school will use the Responsive Classroom approach to teaching that emphasizes social, emotional, and academic growth in a strong and safe school community.

**XVII. Meeting adjourned at 8pm.** Motion by Colleen Adams, second by Nancy Alzamorra.