

Draft Meeting Minutes (to be approved February 16, 2012)  
Mountview PTA General Meeting  
Thursday, January 19, 2012

1. Open/attendance form for signatures

Deneen Barclay, Carolyn Berglund, Carrie Boisselle, Chottsie Cote, Erik Githmark, Tina McAndrew, Beth Moughan, Asia Snyder, Patty Walton

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the December 15, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved (motion to approve: Patty Walton, 2nd: Deneen Barclay)

3. Treasurer's Report

Patty reported that the PTA still has lots of money. Homework Zone is doing well; we still haven't paid yet for the second term teachers (about \$4,000) but we have a profit of about \$6,000 for the first two terms. Dawn Rooke received her stipend check for the after school research help. Last month we paid for the Quintessential Brass musical group that came in December.

4. Stipend/Grant Requests

a. Asia Snyder requested a stipend to start a book club for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls (mostly 8<sup>th</sup> graders) using the book *The Odd Girl Out* which identifies the culture of bullying in middle schools and the reasons it occurs in the first place. The girls would meet bi-monthly and Asia could talk to girls by way of the book – why at this age girls do what they do – and address the reasons and perhaps solve the problems. The goal is to reach out to aggressors and bullied people with the hope that a ripple affect occurs after the initial 15 girls participate. Initially girls from the A OK group and NJHS will be asked and more private conversations will be had with more troubled girls. The goal is to have a variety of personalities of kids that normally wouldn't communicate with each other to learn from each not just about bullying, but anger management, grief, turmoil, etc. Hopefully, this can be repeated after this first cycle.

Patty asked how Asia will get bullies to join. Asia stated she has a rapport with students, both kids that get in trouble and those that don't. The school psychologist will also be present for some sessions so that Peggy can get to know the students and the students will get to know Peggy. Currently students will not visit Peggy because they do not know her and aren't comfortable with her. Peggy does not require a stipend.

PTA will buy 15 copies of *The Odd Girl Out* for \$89.70 plus the \$250 for the stipend for a total of \$339.70 (motion to approve: Tina McAndrew, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Carrie Boisselle).

b. Chottsie Cote presented a request for a special education online program called VMATH. This program will benefit the 12 neediest students who scored warning or low on MCAS. The program is formatted like a video game – the player can build up points to dress his/her character and play against kids from across the world that are matched at the same level. Using this tool, Chottsie can teach a lesson then have the kids use the online game to reinforce the taught skills. The system can be used at home as well and is tied to MCAS. The program tracks progress so teachers and parents can see how long students spent on practice and how they are doing, and it diagnoses problems and helps track what Chottsie needs to re-teach. The cost is \$15 a piece for 12. Erik commented this would be a good program to trial and see if it is the best online resource to use.

Carrie asked if there is a way to bypass the work and get the answer. Chottsie answered no, that there are different levels and the pretest results let you know what level you need to practice more, but the user definitely needs to do the work (motion to approve: Carrie Boisselle; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Beth Moughan)

c. Beth Moughan would like to establish a Lego Club for afterschool. Beth, along with Barbara Ann Birch, would organize the club for up to 15 students in grades 6 and 7. The club would start the week after the musical in case kids participating in the musical want to join. Initially supplies needed include: balloons, elastics, legos (we can put the word out for people who want to donate legos) and then we can go out and buy what we still need.

Erik will work on donations of legos. Beth still needs a room at the school and a notice to go out. Carolyn suggested \$100 in seed money (motion to approve: Tina McAndrew; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Erik Githmark).

## 5. Winter/Spring Overview

- February Staff Coffee is planned for the 17<sup>th</sup> – the day before break. Carolyn will send out an email requesting donations.
- School Musical is March 7-10th – 100 kids are involved. PTA sponsors a dance to support the play which will be held March 2. Carolyn will ask Hope if we need to provide refreshments for the play; PTA will need refreshments for the dance.
- MCAS dates/snack purchase  
Exams are March 20-23 and May 8, 9, 15, and 16<sup>th</sup>
- Copy Pool (update)  
Deneen has not heard from Ashley. We may make a copy request form such as the one from Central Tree. Carolyn also mentioned putting a

shelf in the copy room above the copier to organize materials to be copied. Deneen will follow up with Ashley LeBlanc

#### 6. Principal's Comments

- Lauren Lavallee represented MTV at the State House regarding service projects such as packing food to give back to the community
- Dan Castro from *The Daily Holden* came in to profile MTV's work for *Be Like Brit* and the sale of bricks to raise money for the orphanage. Brit's grandmother and uncle came in. The fundraiser brought in \$400.
- Channel 3 profiled Dave Fredette and the Cell Phones for Soldiers fundraiser
- A parent letter was sent home on Friday about placement in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math... it is also posted on the website. There have been past issues in the district on how to place kids in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math; there has been no consistency from school to school in criteria. While MTV had a good system, other schools did not. Criteria were created for students to be placed in the appropriate course.
- NESDEC enrollment figures from the state tell us what our school will look like in the next 10 years or so. This information is used to plan ahead – for textbooks and for staffing and long term planning. Actual numbers are usually within 2% of what the numbers predict. The numbers also provide a history of enrollment in which we can see how much the town is growing.
- There was a building committee meeting last week in which a person from the state level was assigned to work on the MTV project which is finally moving forward! It is possible for a new school to be built in 3-5 years once the decision is made whether to renovate the old or build new.
- Coffee and Chat tomorrow at 9am

#### 7. Comments/Questions? - none

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:52pm (motion to approve: Tina McAndrew; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Carolyn Berglund).