

## ***The Foot Bridge PTA Meeting*** ***Monday, December 7, 2009***

**Attendance:** Jane Allen, Toni Berg, Ed Cavin, Jan Dornseif, Laura Emms, Karleen Goodman, Erik Hyman, Merrily Karel, Darlah Krug, Denise Manda, Gary Robbins, Andy Wetzell

The meeting was opened by President, Laura Emms, at 6:08pm. Committee listings were laid out for volunteer signup.

**Old Business:** Secretary, Merrily Karel, moved to accept the revised edition of the Footbridge PTA Bylaws as provided. Second by Karleen Goodman. Motion approved. Merrily indicated that she will delay the report of changes to the Minnesota PTA and National PTA, until further amendments are completed early next year.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made by Laura Emms to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2009 Foot Bridge PTA meeting as provided. Second by Denise Manda. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Denise Manda presented an Annual Report for 2008/09 Foot Bridge PTA and a current financial report for the period of November 9, 2009 through December 7, 2009. Our current balance (cash on hand) is \$10,900.53. Merrily Karel made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Second by Jane Allen. Motion approved.

Denise further reported that the Minnesota PTA recommends a model of 3 to 1 action for local PTA units. This means 3 social events for every 1 fundraiser. She stated the need for volunteers to serve on a Budget/Audit Committee. Gary Robbins volunteered and Ed Cavin will be the staff liaison to this committee.

**President's Report:** Laura Emms reported that the Parent Advisory group would be meeting in January, and will create a "major fundraising" group to which we need PTA representation.

**Principal/School Update:** Principal, Ed Cavin, reported on the Thursday Faith programming. He discussed the evolution of programming including the participation of Pastor Jon Larson from King of Kings Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 10th, and Pastor Sarah Breckenridge from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. He plans to invite the preschool teachers to visit the program. Discussion about expansion of the space resulted in a decision to move the next program to a classroom, in order to accommodate more people. Ed further reported that the upcoming school Holiday program will have some faith based substance, but will not be specifically Christian. The students will be celebrating world holidays.

Kindergarten Admission Night received no RSVP's, but resulted in visits by 8 families, 4 of these were Peace of Mind families. An admission open house will be scheduled for the third week in January. Currently, there are three kindergartners on the waiting list for the current school year.

Ed asked for suggestions to improve the parent/child/teacher/ and specialist relationships. Jane Allen suggested that we need more events that allow parents an opportunity to speak their thoughts and ask questions of teachers outside of the usual conferences. Suggestions included a grade-level breakfast, and a series of grade-level teacher events. Denise Manda suggested a "Fun Night" be sponsored by the PTA for each grade. Each grade-level event would include

families and the teacher and could be used as a classroom incentive. A motion was made by Merrily Karel to provide a budget of \$100 to \$400 for each classroom, as a PTA sponsorship of "Fun Night." Motion was seconded and carried. Ed will move forward to implement more programming to further the ideas presented.

**Guest Speaker:** Footprints Academy Third Grade Teacher, Darlah Krug, reported on third grade activities including the recent opening of the school store. Ideas, product selection, and marketing were all planned by the third graders. She told us that an upcoming field trip would be coordinated in conjunction with the Giving Tree program. November activities in third grade included Mayflower letters written from the perspective of someone crossing to the new world on the Mayflower. Vocabulary enrichment is especially important in her third grade curriculum. She closed her report with the statement "We make sure that we are teaching "for your child." Thank you for an information rich report Mrs. Krug!

### **Committee Reports:**

**BINGO Night** - Laura Emms reported that 18 families attended for a total income of \$180. Expenses were \$35.24 for a net total income of \$144.76. Laura thanked Woodbury Days for allowing us to use their BINGO cards. She also thanked volunteers and the fifth and sixth grade students for creating the posters and advertising. Mrs. Krug suggested a promotional table, next year, featuring the BINGO prizes. Many students asked in advance about the selection of prizes. Merrily Karel also suggested that a substantial door prize be offered.

**Box Tops Challenge:** Susan Asplund sent a report that our year-to-date total is \$203.85. Our school year goal is \$1000.00. Susan needs help with the year-end party. Please contact her to volunteer. Merrily Karel noted the Box Top Read Program directs you to the Barnes & Noble website and provides a 6% kickback to our boxtop account. Access to the on-line ordering must be done through the Box Tops website. Karleen Goodman suggested a thermometer or some type of measuring visual be created to mark our progress throughout the year.

**Kemps Milk Top Collection** - Andy Wetzel reported that 1238 caps have been received to date. A minimum of 2000 caps is required for a submission which nets about \$100. A maximum of four submissions may be made in a single school year.

**Christmas Program** – Toni berg volunteered to coordinate the hospitality effort. Merrily Karel and Karleen Goodman volunteered to assist. It was determined that we would have separate tables for home baked good and store bought goods due to allergy concerns. Merrily Karel made a motion to provide a budget of \$40 to \$80 for the event hospitality. Second by Andy Wetzel. Motion carried.

### **Upcoming Activities:**

**Science Fair** – Volunteers are still needed to chair the committee and provide assistance. This annual event will take place on Thursday, February 11, 2010. It is coordinated and sponsored by the Footbridge PTA.

**Adult Book Program** – Mrs. Sloat will be launching this program soon. The annual Spring book program for children's book is also planned. Bring your books for trade.

### **New Business:**

Toni Berg suggested that we hang up our PTA volunteer needs in the lobby. Laura Emms indicated that she has requested a bulletin board in the lobby for our organizational needs.

Karleen Goodman also suggested that we set up a PTA information table at the upcoming Christmas Program.

Discussion also took place regarding a weekly school newsletter to supplement the teacher newsletters. The idea is to make a calendar which features important events for all grades and provide a consistent message about services and school programming. Ed Cavin said that he would consider a weekly newsletter as an option.

Denise Manda suggested that we repeat the phone call reminders prior to the next meeting.

Merrily Karel volunteered to coordinate the effort.

Merrily Karel made a motion to provide up to \$100 for PTA supplies and copies. Seconded by Denise Manda. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 11, 2010** 6:30pm – 8pm in the cafeteria  
(note: A short meeting will be held in advance of the speaker on the topic of internet safety.)