

Wayne Council of PTO's Council Meeting
October 26, 2011
James Fallon Elementary School

1. Welcome by Karen Marron. Meeting called to order at 7:36
2. Jackie Prince made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the May 4, 2011 Council Meeting and to accept the minutes as written. Karen Stack seconded the motion. The motion carried.
3. Officer's Reports:
 - A. Corresponding Secretary: Jackie Prince circulated various thank-you notes from scholarship recipients.
 - B. Treasurer's Report: Joyce Morandi reviewed the proposed budget. Staci Lupo made a motion to approve the budget as written. Kaylyn Greer seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed.
 - C. Vice-President: Frank Cook reported that she is handling certificates of insurance. If an event is scheduled outside of school grounds, after school hours, a certificate of insurance is needed. The form is on the PTO Council web site. The form must be filled out by the PTO President or Vice President and submitted to Fran. Fran will then submit to the insurance company.
 - D. Co-President Report: Karen Marron , Janine Del Vecchio
 - Karen reported that she recently met with Kim Essen, Board of Education Trustee, to review permits for after school events. The language is being changed. Police will not be required if events are limited to the school population and there are parents and chaperones present.
 - Indian Hills High School is hosting an event called Rachael's Challenge. The event is held in memory of a student who was killed at Columbine. This student was known for protecting and helping others who were victims of bullying. The event is for high school students. We are interested in bringing it to Wayne. Karen will be attending the event and please call her for more information.
 - Janine reported that Jamie Lilis has resigned as Corresponding Secretary but will still maintain her position as PTO President at Schuyler Colfax Middle School. Jackie Prince has been appointed Corresponding Secretary and is moving over from the position of Co-Recording Secretary.
 - We are looking for a second Vice-President for the Council Executive Board. Please contact us if you are interested.
 - Raffle Licenses are only for PTO use. SPA and Project Graduation are included.
 - Thank-you to Michael Roth for working so well and so closely with us during his time as Superintendent.
 - Please use the web site blog to communicate about good and bad experiences with vendors, events, etc.

- E. Joyce Morandi reminded everyone about scholarship cards. If your school has a sunshine fund these cards can be put to good use. Joyce still has packages of cards. Ten cards come in a package for \$50.00. A PTO check is needed and a receipt will be issued. All the money raised from the scholarship cards goes directly into the scholarship account for graduating seniors. Please contact Joyce for cards.
4. Committee Reports
- A. Wayne Alliance: Reported by Karen Marron
 - The Harlem Magic Masters assembly will be on 4/27/12. We will be reminding PTOs about donating tricky tray baskets as the date gets closer.
 - An assembly was presented to the Middle Schools called "The Illusion Maker". At the High Schools an assembly called "Dirt" was presented.
 - "The Reality Tour" was presented at Wayne Valley High School for 7th and 8th grade middle school students. Frances Gallo attended the assembly with her child and reported that her child felt this assembly should be required for all students before going into 9th grade. The assembly is a reenactment of a student overdosing on drugs while at high school. In addition there were recovering addicts who came and spoke. There were a lot of questions and answers and the assembly was very moving for parents and children.
 - Grants are being approved for next calendar year and new programs will be made available for the middle and elementary schools.
 - Please speak to Karen Marron or Robyn Gulino if you want the Alliance to fund a program.
 - B. Food Bank: Reported by Susan Kresge
 - The food bank has been cleaned up. There are plenty of canned items. Needed items are cereal, pasta, rice, oil, and toiletries. There is difficulty filling orders because there are not enough of these items.
 - Joyce Morandi asked if there were large bins to prevent infestation with pests. Janine Del Vecchio stated that there are bins there but they must be diligent about keeping the bins sealed.
 - Janine Del Vecchio reported that gift cards will be coming to the Food Bank from Wayne Valley. GW will have a food drive this week and Schuyler has a food drive coming up. James Fallon and a local pre-school have both scheduled food drives to benefit the food bank in November. This year there have been 50 orders so far and this is a big increase in demand from past years. Stacy Lupo asked if food drives should still be done and Janine Del Vecchio advised waiting until after November. Suzanne Koranksy was contacted by a Girl Scout Group about a food drive and she will refer them to Council.
 - C. Project Graduation: Reported by Ruby Stanfield

- The class of 2012 does not want to do the craft fair but the classes of 2013 and 2014 do so they will split this year's craft fair. Kim Kapinski is organizing for the class of 2015.

D. Special Parent's Association (SPA): Reported by Karen Stack

- Last weeks open house was very successful and there was good turnout. There were awards and honors given to volunteers who have helped SPA. The Girl Scout Troop from James Fallon were honored for their volunteer work and the girls were very proud to receive the awards.
- Thank you to Wayne Hills High School for the great job they do to help the transition from high school to "real life"
- Upcoming activities are planned for families and may include a trip to a museum.
- Planned workshops include workshops for ADHD, Estate Planning, IEP planning, and Summer Camp.

E. Parents of Gifted Students (PGS): Read into the minutes by Jackie Prince

PGS (Parents of Gifted Students) held its first event of the 2011-2012 school year two weeks ago, a Family Game Night at the library with several families in attendance. We continue to let parents know about available gifted and talented resources outside the township that will supplement the resources now available to parents and educators in Wayne. We look forward to working with our new superintendent and Director of Elementary Education in the coming weeks. Our next proposed event for parents and students will be a discussion on what Cyber-bullying is, and how to make others aware of it.

We're hoping to schedule a meeting with educators, including our new superintendent to help us better plan this program which we're proposing for January 2012. Let either Dianne or I know how to best proceed. Our next PGS membership meeting will be held in December; date has yet to be determined.

We wish all PTO members a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth Lang

F. Browse N Shop: Reported by Kathy Jones-Smith

- Kathy reported that she was very impressed with the PTO Presidents who came to help out during her first week and cleaned the shop and made her job so much easier. There is now an empty hallway and the rack is up and the shop is being painted. The shop is always looking for more volunteers. We currently are averaging between \$400-500.00 per week and Kathy hopes to break \$10,000.00 by the end of the year. Please stop by to say hello or volunteer.
- Karen Marron reported that no more donations of clothing are being accepted until after December. Kathy Jones Smith added that donations of household items are

still being accepted but that there is not room for large furniture. Items like strollers and high chairs are in high demand.

- Karen Marron reported that as of November 1st there will no longer be Saturday hours. The new hours are T,W,Th from 10 am – 2pm and Weds eve from 4 pm until 8 pm.
 - Janine Del Vecchio asked Ruby Stanfield if she could coordinate with the National Honor Society Advisor at the high schools to have high school students volunteer at the Browse and Shop as part of their community services on Weds evenings from 4-8. Kathy Jones Smith stated that students who volunteer must be at least high school age. Scouts are also welcome to volunteer.
- G. Children's Cultural Workshop (CCW): Reported by Janine Del Vecchio.
- The CCW was closed last weekend due to power shut down at Schuyler Colfax. The program is up and running. Enrollment was a little bit lower than in the past.

5. Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent's Report: Presented by Diane Pandolfi

- Diane Pandolfi reported that although she is not looking forward to Michael Roth leaving our district she is looking forward to the arrival of Dr. Gonzalez as our new Superintendent.
- A farewell reception is being planned for Michael Roth. It will be held on Weds, Dec. 7th from 3-5 at The Village Inn. An invitation to all PTO Presidents and PTO Council will be sent out. There will be a gift presented and a cocktail hour.
- Diane Pandolfi's official title is Principal on Special Assignment. In addition she has been asked by Mr. Roth to step in and work as the Director of Elementary Education following the resignation of the prior Director. In that role Mrs. Pandolfi reported that she attended the GATES parent forum. She is currently working with the enrichment specialists to look at the gifted and talented services in our district and assessing the program. Surveys will be distributed to parents and principals and consultants will be hired to evaluate the G&T program in all grades.
- The Elementary School teachers are creating a new social studies curriculum to meet the new common core state standards in language arts and math. Because the standards are for grades 5-8 there is a need to articulate between the elementary and middle schools.

B. Director's Report: Presented by Dr. Labate

- The curriculum and common core standards will go into effect for grades K-2 in September then grades 3-5. High School goes live next September 2012 and the Middle Schools in September 2013. The curriculum between the High Schools and the Middle Schools will be aligned with common core standards. Teaching strategies and resources are already being implemented and students working with materials. There are two more years left of NJASK and then new assessments will be utilized. The primary focus is on tested areas of Math and Language Arts.

- The clickers have been put in place in the middle school to perform “in the moment” assessments. Continued professional development of teachers to reinforce the use of the clickers for math and science is being provided and then the clickers will be introduced into language arts and social studies at the middle school levels. The clickers will also be introduced into freshman algebra classes at the high schools because these students have familiarity with them from 8th grade.
- C. Principals’ Report: Presented by Mr. Maayan
- The past two weeks have been important weeks. The schools have hosted Respect Week, which is state mandated and Violence Prevention Week.
 - Having Mrs. Pandolfi as our leader is a breath of fresh air. She has opened up so many good things for us and we are very excited. It is a tremendous asset for the whole district to have Diane Pandolfi working so well with Dr. Labate.
6. Board of Education Report: Presented by Robyn Kingston
- Robyn just returned from the New Jersey School Board Convention and was pleased to spend time with Dr. Gonzalez. He has lots of energy and is very enthusiastic about coming to Wayne. He will start on December 7th.
 - The Board is talking a lot about creating academic excellence in our district.
 - Please check out our web site. We are not on the Wayne Schools page because we could not do the things we wanted with our web site through that page and we wanted to start as soon as possible. Please e-mail to your parents about our web site. Alerts can be sent through the web site.
 - As we move forward the BOE would like to work with PTO Presidents to make sure our information about the budget process is distributed as far in advance as possible. We want to hold events at your school to communicate with your parents. Please start to think about events that can be held during the first two weeks in April. We can’t pass the budget without your help.
7. Wayne Education Association (WEA) Report: Presented by Eda Ferrante
- The WEA is looking forward to working with the PTO and is committed to passing the school budget.
 - Eda brought a flyer with her and asked for it to be distributed to our membership.
 - The WEA is very excited that we have a new superintendent. Mr. Roth will be missed, he was fantastic.
8. Department Reports
- A. Special Services: No Report
- B. Health Services: Reported by Suzanne Koransky
- It has been a busy opening of the year due to flooding. The State has been working well and giving aid to families with free and reduced lunches.
 - Camp Warwick is underway. Pines Lake left today and James Fallon goes next week. So far all has gone well.
 - Suzanne is working to bring drug prevention programs into the district. At present she is working on having the Be Proud program offered to 8th grade students. The program is a voluntary program. Children and their parents sign a contract and the children agree to random drug testing. The program is in the High Schools already.

The philosophy of this program is unique because it is prevention, not intervention. The program is waiting for BOE approval.

- Last week was Red Ribbon Week. The Student Assistant Counselors used grant money to purchase red tulips that will be planted this fall and will hopefully bloom in time for Alcohol Awareness Week.
- C. Building Services Report: Read into the Minutes by Suzanne Koransky for John Maso

Browse-N-Shop

The Browse-N-Shop has informed the department that the Saturday hours at Preakness have now ended. Facilities wishes to thank the efforts of the Browse-N-Shop's volunteers the work they did in order to comply with the fire code of keeping the corridors and stairwell areas clear of all items, in this case donated clothing in bags. The hallway will now be cleaned and freshly painted. Also a clothing rod system will be installed to accommodate the volunteers to remove clothing from bags and to quickly hang them up off the floor to determine its use.

Pines Lake

The rear parking lot area of the building is being evaluated to improve the safety of the drop-off and pick-up session of the day by parents in vehicles. Striping on asphalt along with asphalt improvements is being looked at.

Packanack

Investigation, a plan, and implementation of improved storm water run-off and drainage in the back playground area of the school is completed. Scheduled work will take place in early November will minimal disruption to the school day. Once completed, this will eliminate the constant washout of playground mulch causing unsafe conditions.

Fallon

Also in early November, the front wall facing the flag pole will be cleaned, and resurfaced, with waterproofing all exposed areas of water penetration to the building. Additional waterproofing in the back near the boiler room will also take place.

Wayne Hills

The oval is still in a temporary mode with restoration to still take place in the immediate future.

A more permanent low profile wood post and rail will be installed during the early part of December.

Schuyler-Colfax

Electric power shut down to connect the new power transformer for the building will not take place on a Saturday, but is now scheduled to take place on Nov. 10 & 11.

Thanks you
John Maso
Office of Building Services

9. Old Business – No Old Business to discuss
10. New Business- No New Business to discuss
11. Open Discussion:
 - Janine Del Vecchio reminded everyone with elections coming up that the PTO does not engage in any politics. Always state “ As a parent and resident of Wayne” prior to sending out any political e-mails, etc. Don’t sign any political endorsements as a PTO President.
 - Stacy Lupo brought up the fact that they are having a tremendous problem with parents bringing their dogs onto school property at pick up and at the Halloween Parade. There is genuine concern for safety. Dogs are not permitted on school grounds. Diane Pandolfi reported that she will ask Mr. Roth to make a call to all Elementary School parents prior to the Halloween parade to remind them that dogs are not permitted on school property.

Carolyn Radler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jackie Prince seconded. The meeting was adjourned by Janine Del Vecchio at 8:45.

Attendance

Staci Lupo	Lafayette
Frances Gali	Lafayette
Tammi Borchard	JFK
Robyn Rasa	Theunis
Michele Iannelli	Theunis
Mary Dudek	Packanack
Ellen Fitzsimons	Pines Lake
Lisa O'Loughlin	Fallon
Carolyn Radler	Fallon
Karen Stack	SPA/GW
Jackie Prince	Council
Karen Marron	Council
Kalyn Freer	Randall Carter
Lisa Silver	APT
Christina Bennett	APT
Frances Galli	Lafayette
Fran Cook	Ryerson/Council
Stephanie Fenske	Ryerson/Council
Janine Del Vecchio	Council
Joyce Morandi	Council
Suzanne Koransky	Admin
Dr. K Labate	Director
Diane Pandolfi	Superintendent's Office
Ethan Maayan	Principal, Fallon
Robyn Kingston	BOE
Eda Ferrante	WEA
Kathy Smith Jones	Browse N Shop
Lisa Minervini	SPA