

**Kaneland McDole Elementary  
Parent Teacher Organization  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
September 17, 2008**

Attendees: Penny Zollinger, Brenda Gonzales, Laura Long, Kathy Zoppa, Sally Baldwin, Cheryl Wheatley, Amy Talbott, Michelle VanPlew, Robyn Lycan, Fran Eggleston, Lesley Fountain, Melissa Winter, Jenny Wold, Laurel Anderson, Mary Kunstman, Nika Plattos, Candice Peel, Cindy Bass, Anne Olson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Laura Long

Introduction of new Board Members made and motion to accept new secretary, Penny Zollinger approved. Meeting days have been changed from Tuesday to Wednesdays.

**Secretary Report:** The reading of the minutes from the May 20, 2008 meeting was waived and a copy of the minutes was provided for everyone to read. Minutes approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sally Baldwin passed out copies of current budget. It was reported that we have \$1,888.41 in our checking account and \$24,719.88 in our savings account. Sally explained that the numbers are fluid and can be adjusted as necessary. Budget approval tabled until the end of the meeting. Budget approval obtained with the addition of \$500 Leadership Conference and \$2000 Springfield Trip expenditures.

**Business:**

Thank yous: Thank you notes were read by Laura Long. These included notes from: 4<sup>th</sup> and fifth grade staff for donation towards "Author for a Day" program, The Corn Boil Committee for our participation at the Bingo Tent, the literacy coach, the Fine Arts Festival Committee, and the School District for the \$10,000 donation for the laptop lab.

Culver's Night Update: Amy Talbott has called Culvers regarding this fundraiser. We are able to schedule the nights any day Monday through Wednesday. It was noted that Monday night is a "Kids Eat Free" night. That might be helpful for some families, but the PTO would not make as much money. It was decided to hold Culver's Nights one time per semester with tentative dates being Tuesday, November 11, 2008 and Wednesday, March 11, 2009 pending approval from the restaurant.

Entertainment Books: Kathy Zoppa explained the Entertainment Book program. One book per family will be sent home on October 16, 2008. Families will be given one week to return either the book or the money to pay for the book. The children will have the opportunity to order and sell more. The books will sell for \$20.00, and the PTO will make \$8-10 per book, depending on how many are sold. As incentives, children who sell one book will be eligible for a raffle to win a \$25.00 AMC Movie gift certificate (there are three of these), children

who sell 2 books will be eligible for a raffle to win an iPod Nano and children selling 3 or more books will be eligible for a raffle to win a free Chicago Edition Entertainment Book.

Fall Fundraiser: Penny Zollinger reported that the Fall Fundraiser will begin this Friday. There will be 2 assemblies given by the fundraising rep on Friday to explain the prize incentives to the kids. Fundraising packets are in the teacher's workroom to be picked up by classroom teachers. Laura Long and/or Penny Zollinger may be contacted with any questions.

Family Fun Night: Marguerite Ledone, who will be chairing this event, was not in attendance for an update. It was reported by Laura Long that the first Family Fun Night is scheduled for October 17, 2008. This will consist of a Dodge Ball/Beach Ball Night. Two other Family Fun Nights will be scheduled throughout the year.

Field Day: The chairperson for the Field Day Event, Robyn Lycam, was introduced. No information available yet.

Fun Lunch: Penny Zollinger reported that the first Fun Lunch will be next Tuesday, September 23, 2008. The teachers will be instructed to utilize the spreadsheets to mark the children's hands as we have done in the past.

Ink Cartridge Recycling: Update provided by Kathy Zoppa. Currently we are utilizing ECycle to recycle our used cartridges. We have recently received a \$135 check. We will also continue to utilize the Staples Reward Program as needed. There is a collection box in the library. Children should bring the used cartridges in a Ziploc bag.

Manna Program: Laura Long reported that we will be selling gift cards only one time this year at Christmas. This seemed to be when most people purchased gift cards last year.

Mother Son Fling: Chairperson, Kris Soucie, was not present to give an update. Laura Long reported that Kris was considering some type of dance, but no date or details have been decided yet.

Oberweiss Nights: Michelle VanPlew reported that these have been scheduled for August, October, April and May. We will receive 10% of the sales.

School Directory: Brenda Gonzales stated that the directories are now at the printer. No new orders can be accepted.

Shop and Share: Kathy Zoppa reported that we currently have three Jewel Shop and Share days scheduled: November 17-19, December 15-17 and April 6-8.

Spirit Wear: Cheryl Wheatley is chairing this committee. She is planning on meeting with her committee to decide on Spirit Wear design. She is hoping to send order forms out in November so that the orders can be received before Christmas. Some concern was shared by Mrs. Olson that their "Kingdom of Readers" T-shirt Design Contest would conflict with the

Spirit Wear T-shirt/sweatshirt sales. It was decided that since the contest T-shirts will be sold earlier than the Spirit Wear, it wouldn't cause a problem.

Yearbook: Stormy O'Connor and Michalene Catanzaro will chair this committee. They have asked the teachers to send them as many pictures as possible of all events taking place at the school. These requests are currently being made via email, but will also be posted on our website and put in our newsletter.

Rebate Skate Program: Laura Long mentioned a fundraising program sponsored through Aurora Skate Center. A skate date will be selected by the PTO and flyers passed out to students. This was presented as a simple way to earn money for our school while the kids have fun.

### **Old Business:**

The PTO shed has finally been organized! A huge thank you to Amy Talbott for undertaking this task.

Freezer: Freezer for Market Day and Fun Lunch use still to be purchased. Angie Westmaas has been looking into this.

### **Proposals:**

4th Grade Springfield Trip: Mrs. Olson and Mrs. Wold represented the 4<sup>th</sup> grade team in requesting that the PTO give \$2,000 to help defray costs of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade fieldtrip to Springfield on April 9, 2009. Last year the PTO donated \$1500 towards this, however, costs of transportation, admission to museums, etc have gone up. Mrs. Olson explained the purpose of the trip (and what the money would be going towards) to the PTO as well as how this trip benefits the kids not only this year, but next year as they make connections to past learning experiences while they are at Loredo Taft. Mrs. Wold talked about the other fundraising ideas that the team is discussing to help raise more money to further offset costs, as the total cost of the trip will be around \$5,000. Last year each student only had to pay \$10.00 to participate. A motion was made to approve this expenditure. All approved.

Junior National Young Leaders Conference: A request for a donation was made by Cheryl Wheatley on behalf of 5 children who were chosen by Miss Pokrandt last May to attend a Leadership Conference in November. The cost of tuition for this trip is \$1,840/person. The children have been participating in fundraisers throughout the summer and have written letters to area businesses requesting donations to help defray costs. Since the children are currently attending the Middle School, the Middle School PTO was asked for a donation also. Miss Pokrandt explained what the Conference has to offer to these children and how it could possibly benefit the children currently at McDole. After much discussion it was decided that the PTO, on a one time only basis, would donate \$500 to help defray the cost of tuition since these children were chosen while they were students at McDole School. The expectation, however, is that the children would then come back to McDole and share their experiences in some fashion with the current student body. It was noted that in order for this

to be considered in the future, the program would have to be offered to *all* 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, not just those in Miss Pokrandt's class. This will be put on the agenda for a future PTO meeting for discussion as to whether the PTO would donate to this in the future since it involves so few children.

Meeting was adjourned by Laura Long at 8:37pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Penny Zollinger, KME PTO secretary