

**Kaneland McDole Elementary
Parent Teacher Organization
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2009**

Attendees: Penny Zollinger, Brenda Gonzales, Laura Long, Kathy Zoppa, Sally Baldwin, Fran Eggleston, Martne McCoy, Michelle VanPlew, Amy Talbott, Heidi Kintz., Mark Moeller, Robyn Lycan, Laura Bright

The meeting was called to order at 6:59pm by Laura Long

Secretary Report: The reading of the minutes from the January 21, 2009 meeting was waived and a copy of the minutes was provided for everyone to read. Minutes approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Sally Baldwin provided copies of the current budget. It was reported that there is \$9150.16 in our checking account and \$32,056.29 in our savings account. Kathy Zoppa reported that the money from the 2 NSF check from Fun Lunch have been collected.

Business:

Culver's Night Update: The decision was reversed to cancel the next Culver's Night. The chairperson was unaware that the event had been canceled and has been trying to get staff to sign up to help for this night. Mrs. Bright stated that many more staff intended on volunteering for this. A decision was made to go through with the planned fundraiser.

Family Fun Night: The next Family Fun Night is scheduled for March 13, 2009. No final decision has been made as to whether to change the popcorn to pretzels as pricing is still being investigated.

Daddy/Daughter Dance: This event will be held on May 2, 2009. The theme for this year's event will be "Butterflies and Gardens". Ana Arrendondo-Garcia has many fun activities planned for the evening. The price of the ticket will be \$30.00/couple and will include pictures and food.

Spirit Wear: It was reported that all leftover merchandise has been sold.

Spirit Week: Spirit Week was held January 26-January 30th. All activities were tied in to our school's Pillars of Character. Each grade level assigned a winning classroom based on level of participation. These classes will get to choose a special movie to watch during the week. A discussion was held regarding the timing of Spirit Week. Most area schools have their Spirit Week coinciding with the High School's Homecoming in the fall. The teachers stated that it would be much better timing since after Winter Break the teachers are spending a lot of time on ISAT preparation. We will plan on having the

dates changed from January to October (the dates will be determined at the next meeting) and are still looking for someone to chair this event for the 2009-10 school year.

Yearbook: Pictures are still needed for the yearbook. Anyone who has any pictures from school sponsored events should get them as soon as possible to Stormy O'Connor or Michalene Catanzaro.

Aurora Skate: Flyers will be sent home to students next week for the February _____ Skate date.

Wendy's Benefit Night: The Wendy's Benefit Night was a huge success. Many families attended. The 4th grade teachers set up their School Shop, games were set up and prizes were raffled off. The PTO netted \$444.00 for this event. Another Benefit Night will be scheduled for April.

Shop and Share: The next Jewel Shop and Share is scheduled the week after the students return from Spring Break. Because it will be difficult to distribute the coupons in a timely fashion and the fact that the PTO only made \$44.00 from the last one it was decided to cancel all Shop and Share dates for the rest of the semester.

Old Business:

Junior National Young Leaders Conference: Editing on the video will be done by February 20th and a date to show the video on MTV will be decided.

Book Fair: Kathy Zoppa spoke with Gwen Carlson from the LRC who requested that the PTO line up parent volunteers to help pull the student's "PTO voucher" books the last morning of the Spring Book Fair.

New Business:

PTO Attendance Survey: Last month the PTO sent our surveys to every family at McDole School trying to obtain information as to why attendance is so poor at monthly PTO meetings. Out of 420 surveys that were sent out, only 48 were returned. A spreadsheet detailing the results along with typed copies of comments was passed out by Laura Long. After much discussion it was decided that it remains difficult to determine what the issues are due to the low response/participation rate. Although "Meeting Day" was cited by some as being a problem it was noted that the meetings have been on Tuesday nights for the past three years and attendance was not any better the previous years. Based on the information obtained and comments received it was decided to respond to the survey in several ways. First, the PTO will draft a letter to send out to parents reiterating the role of the PTO and to encourage families that have not signed up for automatic email reminders to do so. Families will also be reminded of our website address and encouraged to keep updated by checking it frequently. Next, the PTO will consider rotating meeting sites and times to make it easier for families to attend in the evenings. The March PTO meeting will be held at the Community House in Sugar Grove

at 6:30 pm. The agendas will be posted on our website prior to meetings and minutes will be posted afterwards so that everyone can stay informed. Elections for the new PTO Board will be held at the April 15th meeting. A letter will be sent out within the next couple of weeks seeking nominations.

Kindergarten registration will be held at the High School on March 14th. The district is looking for parent volunteers to help any time from 8am-2pm. Interested parties should contact Laura Long.

Laura Long received another letter from 5th grader Alexis Mullins requesting that the PTO absorb the cost of having a Holocaust Survivor come and speak to the children. Fran stated that a request like that must come from the teachers as any speakers must be approved by the grade levels and tied into the current curriculum.

A proposal was made by a parent of the school for the PTO to purchase videos and start a “video library” for teachers to use as incentives for participation in PTO events since district policy now prohibits “pizza parties” (or other “food” rewards) as participation prizes. After much discussion it was decided that teachers would not use the videos frequently enough to warrant the cost and it would be very difficult to maintain an “up to date” collection.

Martne McCoy mentioned that the Parent University Planning Group is still looking for volunteers to help with the planning of classes and events. A class was held in February at John Shields on Meal Planning and “The Chalk Guy” is scheduled to speak at the High School on May 6th. Interested parties should contact Martne.

Proposals:

A proposal was made by the 3rd through 5th grade teachers for the PTO to provide a bottle of water and a healthy snack each day for the children during the week of ISATS. A motion was made to approve \$750.00 for this expenditure as long as the PTO members were not responsible for finding vendors and scheduling deliveries. All approved.

A proposal was made by the first grade teachers for \$1200 to be used for t-shirts, gift cards and a “celebration” for their “Read to the Principal” program. It was explained that after fifty books are read each child has the opportunity to read to Mrs. Eggleston or Mrs. McCoy as a reward. Once the children have read 100 books they receive a gift card to Barnes and Nobles. A motion was made to approve \$1200 for this program. All approved.

Meeting was adjourned by Laura Long at 7:52pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Penny Zollinger, KME PTO Secretary

