

Present: Amy Aldrich, Jessica Rzeszotarski, Bob Rafferty, Candy Burchett, Kim North, Sonja Olson, Valerie Simpson, Lynette Albright, Judy Gibson, Donna Sausville, Betty Hanson, Sue Cifferatta, Bob Speck

The meeting in the Stevens Library was called to order at 7:00 pm by Amy Aldrich

Presidents Report – Amy Aldrich

Welcome and Introduction of Attendees

Approval of Minutes

- September Meeting Minutes were distributed and reviewed.
- Motion to approve minutes made, seconded and passed.

PTA Update

- Thank You -
 - To Helen Roos for heading up the school pictures this year
 - The class picture will be a composite picture of individual head shots instead of the true class pictures we've had previous years. Pros and Cons of this method discussed.
 - Question was raised as to whether or not it would be possible to view proofs prior to ordering in the future. Whoever heads the school pictures next year could discuss this with the picture company as well as discuss bringing back the true class picture if desired.
- We still have a few open chair positions: PJ Party
Ice Cream Social
Family Fun Night
- School Spirit Sale – Will be run by Colleen Grabb this year and in addition to the flyers going home, she will set up a booth at the Family Dinner so people can actually view the products prior to ordering.
- The reading challenge carnival will be held on Friday during school – Jackie Ballinger is still in need of volunteers, contact her if you are available to help.
- Reflections – Lynette Albright is running the Reflections program again this year. Flyers have gone home with information and the forms for entry are available in the office. Questions concerning this program can be directed to Lynette Albright.
- The National PTA newsletter contained an article concerning Successful Parent Teacher Conferences – copies are available tonight.
 - Sue Cifferatta asked if this article could be made available to all parents – she will contact Ralph Rothacker about it.

Upcoming Events

- Fall Fundraiser – Due October 13th
- Curiosity Shop Starts October 14th
- Odyssey of the Mind Info Meeting – October 15th
- Family Dinner – November 6th

Principal's Report – Ralph Rothacker

- Not in Attendance

Officers Reports

Treasurer's Report – Bob Rafferty

- Account Balances: Checking \$8,441.18 and Savings \$13,422.02
 - Taxes are due by November 15th so we will begin working on them shortly to get them done in a timely fashion.
- Membership – 440 PTA members as of today and we expect more to come in over the next month or so getting our number over the 500 mark.
 - Each member pays \$5 with \$1.50 of that staying with us and \$3.50 of it going to the New York State PTA
- Arts and Enrichment Bill needs to be paid – this is a bill that is a carry over from the previous year because we don't get billed for this until August. (Our accounting cycle runs from July to June). Therefore we need to move \$4,123 from savings to checking to cover the check for this bill.
 - Motion to move the money from savings to checking to cover A&E bill made, seconded and passed.
- Request from the Health and Wellness Committee to increase Budget to \$100
 - Donna Sausville – The Health and Wellness Committee has been working on ways to promote health, fitness and overall wellness by coming up with monthly goals to work on throughout the year. Mr. Freestone has requested money to cover the cost of a program called fitness steps, which requires tokens for the kids to earn as well as cards for them to record their steps on – they will ultimately be stepping across America! Mr. Freestone got this program down to the bare basics to keep the cost down. The current budget is \$50 and we need \$100 to cover the cost of this program.
 - Motion made to move \$50 from The Welcome Back Breakfast Budget, which was already held and came in \$60 under budget, to the Health and Wellness Budget. Motion seconded and passed.

Teacher's Report – Betty Hanson and Sue Ciffaratta

- Amy Lutz asked that the teachers ask if the PTA has a program in place for covering the cost of funding field trips for students that are in need of assistance in covering that cost.
 - The PTA has a Family Assistance Fund that has \$100 budgeted for needs such as this or covering the cost of other various needs specific students may have.
 - The PTA encourages teachers to take advantage of the funding we have available to assist students in a variety of ways – keeping in mind that those monies are limited to what we have budgeted each year.
 - The procedure would be to see Mrs. Hay regarding the student so that it is kept confidential and she would contact the PTA.

- Mrs. Niezgoda along with Tammy Hladun is planning a “cut-a-thon” fundraiser with Locks of Love to be held sometime in the spring. She is hoping to get Student Council involved and the support of the PTA. More information will follow as it becomes available.
- The teachers have asked about the Capri Sun recycling program because we haven’t seen anything involving it.
 - A flyer will go out to teachers – the bin has finally been put in place today! We will also look into doing a morning announcement to remind students to recycle drink pouches. Individual classes will have to bring the pouches to the bin in the cafeteria.
- The 1st grade has requested a second Scotia-Glenville traveling museum visit – A&E needs to review the numbers and where we are at budget wise, but Jackie Ballinger believes it should be doable. She or Valerie Simpson will get back to you.

<i>Committee Reports</i>

Curiosity Shop – Amy Aldrich

- The forms have been returned and are being sorted and organized. We are hoping to have the permission slips available to go home Friday.

Building Council – Jackie Ballinger/Ralph Rothacker
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- The Respect 360 Plan is still being developed – an acronym has been developed to correspond with the word respect. Posters, etc will be made to hang around the school and programs will be put in place focusing on these key words.
 - This program was developed in response to the survey conducted last year that students in grades 3-5 completed. It was a brief survey conducted on the computer and the results were compiled based on their answers.
 - Two of the standout items from this survey were that a large percentage of students did not always feel that they were treated fairly and that a large percentage of students had difficulty with conflict resolution stating that many used language and even violence as a means to deal with problems.
 - Another program in response to these findings was a 2 hour training session for all support staff specifically in dealing with conflict resolution and helping kids to learn how to more effectively deal with conflict.
- In response to last months report by Building Council a subcommittee was developed and met to discuss the funding of the Agenda’s that the school provides for the students.
 - The subcommittee met to look at the PTA budget and see if there was some way we could assist in paying for the agenda’s to free up some of the textbook budget that is currently used to fund them. The subcommittee felt one way for the PTA to contribute would be to donate a portion of any money made on our Fall and possibly Spring fundraisers that comes in in excess of our budgeted goals.
 - Motion made that 50% of monies made in excess of our fall fundraiser goal to be paid to the school to help cover the cost of the agendas. Assuming this is successful the motion is made to repeat this pledge with our spring fundraiser. Motion seconded and passed with a note added by Sonja Olson that this is perhaps something we should look at in the future to actually build into our budget.

School Board Report – Bob Speck

- Mr. Speck will be bringing the agenda discussion to Mr. Shultz because he believes it is important that perhaps all schools follow the same game plan in regards to funding of the agendas. It is important for the school to not depend on other sources to fund things that the school ultimately should be funding. While agendas may not fall into this category, textbooks would so it is important to communicate while this may indeed be freeing up textbook money – the donation itself is to fund the agendas.
- We still are waiting to hear about more possible cuts. The state is currently looking at a 2 Billion Dollar deficit and this may lead to midyear cuts in the budgets which would be devastating.
- Reminder that the Board does not get involved in Administrative Issues – those issues would be directed to Jackie St. Onge, Jim Shultz or Dr. Evans. The Board is a policy making pary and the Board policy manual is available for anyone to review at any time.
- Issues facing us as a District include the state aid situation, the shift in leadership to focus more on urban areas in the state, the yearly audit report is due back next week, and the bond issue that is currently being debated.
 - The Bond committee keyed in on 22 items deemed critical within the district and that number was coming in around 20 million dollars. Now they are addressing another 10 million dollar addition to cover various items and the question is how to propose a bond issue of this magnitude in today’s economy. Therefore it is still being looked at and debated.

Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday November 4th at 7 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Submitted by Jessica Rzeszotarski
Stevens PTA Secretary