

PTO MEETING MINUTES (approved)

February 6, 2013

Officers Present: President: Heather Pettis, VP: Tara Mickela, Treasurer: Kara Jolly, Asst. Treasurer: Kelly Mee, Volunteer Coordinator: Teresa Hill, Secretary: Becky Vardell, Principal: George Shea.

Secretary's Report - Becky Vardell Minutes from the January 2, 2013 meeting reviewed and approved.

Kirsten Barton of **Kumon Math and Reading Center of Portsmouth** spoke regarding their program offerings. Please see their website www.kumon.com/portsmouth.

Principal's Report - George Shea

Merritt Dooley won PMS spelling bee out of 80-something kids. **NFS Science Institute:** Something new on Feb. 21 – we're looking for more ways to infuse science into the curriculum. We're working on inquiry-based science skills. Kids will rotate through 3 stations in the morning and in the afternoon there may be a "Mad Science" presentation. Feel free to join in for the Institute activities. Yesterday the 4th graders went to city hall and they participated in a Mt. Washington Observatory teleconference – one highlight was students watching bubbles freezing before they hit the ground. **School Safety Drills.** 1st lock-down drill last week – went well and we need to improve a couple of areas, with regard to infrastructure, etc. Consultants coming during Feb. break to see what we can improve upon. We'll be conducting reverse evacuations as well, which involves kids going back in from the playground. PEAK is a known problem and is on the docket to determine ways to tighten security. **NECAPS** – may have a "NECAP Information Night" to really delve into the details and to help parents understand what the numbers mean. We've had very steady and incremental growth over the years. See George for more info. Kids' scores come out next Thurs.

President's Report - Heather Pettis

Fundraising Discussion Review – key areas that came up are: better communication is necessary and we need to appeal to a wider range of interests. Website should be up and running. Grade-based fundraising is not working. A buy-out option is appealing to parents who would rather not fundraise, and we should pursue. Great ideas for new fundraisers were expressed and we need people to head-up. **Blood Drive:** Nurse Barbara is organizing at the Greek Orthodox Church. Please donate! **Generate for Schools-** distribution of funds to schools would not go through the School Board, but would go directly to PTO's. Good pay-off and not a lot of effort once it's up and running. **Staff Meeting** – Heather attended to check in and see if they are feeling supported. Teachers especially thank the PTO for the Math Enrichment programs and for fully funding field trips.

Committee Reports: Greening - Bonita Beckman We're planning to build raised beds out by the sheds in March. Using a square foot garden in 8x3ft. beds. Students will participate in the planting process from growth to harvesting. Planning to also "grow a row" for the hungry and incorporate community garden space during the summer months. **Wellness** – George - hydration station will be installed soon in the café.

30 Day Review - Tara Mickela

River Run Bookstore – Becky – for our first time participating, and with the timing right after the Holidays, we were pleased with \$60+, which Tom Holbrook rounded up to \$100 in store credit for Mrs. Patterson to use for library book purchases! **Fun Pass** – Made \$285. Thirty-eight people purchased, so maybe next year it will be even bigger.

Treasurer's Report - Kelly Mee

Not much movement. Directory costs added, but we may have printing donated. Will be paying out more field trip \$.

60 Day Look Forward - Tara Mickela

Kisses – coming tomorrow hard copy. They have to be back on Wed. **Little Ceasar's** – still time to order!
Ice Cream Social – Feb. 21st – looking for more volunteers. **Talent Show** March 22nd 6:30-8:30pm Pam really needs the permission slips on time! May be videotaping this year. **80's Dance Party** – April 13th –still need a location.
Wallis Sands Half- water stop pays \$300, with a possible additional \$300 if voted best stop!!

Meeting Adjourned – Next meeting is March 6 at 7pm. Childcare will be provided.