

Slingerlands Elementary School PTA Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2011 7:00 PM

INTRODUCTION

- Tami called the meeting to order at 7:00
- There were no changes to the agenda.

PRESENTATION

- The NYS teacher evaluation process was presented by the Bethlehem Teacher's Association. There are some very good changes to the process, and there are some changes for which the outcome is unknown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

Principal, Heidi Bonacquist

- Shared a mission statement (Shared Vision) which she drafted for Slingerlands Elementary. The group reviewed and agreed it was a good representation of the school's vision. One suggestion was to incorporate the various ways in which the school helps the local community. Heidi will work with the statement to add this piece.
- Lip sync is coming up on November 3rd, a lot of planning has gone into it and the chairs have done an excellent job.
- American Education Week is in two weeks, it will be announced on the website. Also, parents will get a packet from child indicating when they can visit.
- Pictures: This is the second year that class pictures were taken as a group. In the past, a composite page of the class was created using the individual school pictures. Heidi indicated that there were some issues with the group shot, and we might have to go back to individual photos next year. This should be added as an agenda item for discussion at a future meeting.

Teacher Representative, Connie Clarkson

- Reminded the group that 11/2 is the last time to buy tickets ahead of time for the lip sync, but they can still be purchased at the door.

Treasurer, Beth Ryan

- Yankee Candle fundraiser profited over \$8,000.
- PTA dues: currently \$70 over budget (which was \$1,300)
- Harvest Dance - \$97 short of budget, but did very well. *The group noted that there wasn't sufficient notification about the \$7 admission, or additional cost for food, etc. A suggestion was to distribute a flyer next year for this notification. Also, Tami noted that she received a lot of positive feedback via e-mail on this event.

Co-Presidents, Tami Richter & Jenean Taranto Watson

- Tami's e-mail was hacked, and she lost the completed list of committee volunteers. She recalls that a few volunteers and chairs are needed for the holiday plant sale, she is working on her files to get information out to the chairs that she does have.
- Membership contest: Mrs. Reiss won: 19 out of 26 signed up.
- Welcome BBQ: took a little bit of a loss, less than \$150
- The Harvest Dance, and the policy of not allowing students to wear costumes was raised. It was noted that Slingerlands is the only elementary school in the district that does not allow them. Heidi advised that the decision was made over 10 years ago, she approves of the policy, but the final decision is for the PTA to make.
- Friendship bracelet sales are doing well, and classroom presentations on fair trade have been very well received.

Calendar

- Eat, Read & Shoot & Book fair are coming soon.
- ASE registration packets will be going out around mid-November, 17 classes, first come first serve, doing some PTA blasts to give parents heads up. Volunteers are needed, this is for any age (they're categorized by age group), associated fee for each class.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORT

PTA to PTO conversion

- We want to be a self-governing body, and are looking for the group to vote on changing from PTA to PTO.
- The PTA would be dissolved in June, 2012, but long before that we want to set up the PTO so we can donate excess money that is in the PTA now into the PTO. If the PTO is set up as a 501(c)(3) the PTA can donate to the PTO because it too is a 501(c)(3) and under the State PTA bylaws and Slingerlands bylaws, the PTA can donate to another 501(c)(3) entity.
- Eagle is a PTO, but they haven't filed for the non-for-profit 501(c)(3).
- All voted for moving forward with PTO, incurring a one-time start-up charge of \$850.