

ORE PTO MINUTES: March 7, 2006

In attendance: Diane Harrington, Matt Silvern, Michael Stone, Barb Dorn, Karen Northey, Kathy Statz, Don Crary, Valerie Jackson, Michele Hughes, Ann O'Rourke Sally Erck.

- I. **Open Meeting**
- II. **Treasurer's Report – Matt Silvern:** An estimated \$1,800 gross income for the Carnival held March 3. With an estimated \$800 of expenses, we took in approximately \$1,000 profit. Matt transferred \$750 from savings to checking to cover upcoming expenses, and \$750 from the Scrip account to checking as well. The Treasurer's Report he provided at the meeting was incorrect, so he will e-mail an updated report.
- III. **Principal's Report – Barb Dorn:** We had a great turnout for Kindergarten registration, with 37 children attending. (We can usually expect about 20 students, the difference may reflect an increase in that age group projected in the district). We also received a check for over \$200 from Target stores thanks to those parents and others who dedicate an amount of their credit card purchases to ORE. We should add something in the Rainbow Review to remind families of this benefit.
- IV. **Carnival / Book Fair – Ann O'Rourke, Don Crary:** The Carnival was a great success, but were short for parent volunteers. Some suggestions were made on how to involve the students and parents more in their class games, such as working as a class to develop their own booth, or working on it in art class. Ann has volunteered to organize the Carnival again next year. Carnival expenses \$251.65 prizes, \$69.99 for helium, \$207.90 moon walk, @ \$150 food. Carnival and Raffle income \$2177.30. Take out \$200 for starting cash and subtract expenses, we profited \$1297.76. The book fair grossed about \$3000 this year. M. Crary turns the book sale over to the PTO next year, but not in the LMC. We will need a Book Fair Chairperson for next year. There was discussion about the potential problems associated with pre-sale and prices of books. Matt S. suggested making funds available for gift certificates. Michele H. suggested offering gently used books at the same time and possibly making them available for the price of a ticket.
- V. **Scrip – Anne Lund, Michele H.:** We earned \$600 from scrip last month and \$280 in donations, which allowed for \$500 payment in funds earmarked for DVD/VCR players requested by teachers. A vote was taken, and it was approved to purchase 6 combination players for approx. \$92 each. An idea was presented to purchase new TV's for individual rooms. Discussion proceeded about the possibility of waiting a couple of years and asking the community for donated outdated televisions due to system changes. These donations would be tax-deductible.
- VI. **Kindergarten Round-up / Open House – Barb D. and Diane H.:** Karen N. and Michele H. volunteered to head up a committee for a round-up in May. Hopefully the new DVD featuring the school will be ready for viewing at the event.
- VII. **Parent Volunteers –** needed for Playground Planning Committee with Sally Erck. We would need 2 parents and 1 teacher. Kathy Statz volunteered to represent the teacher on the committee. Other volunteers are needed to help with: Volunteer Co-coordinator, Co-Vice Presidents, Yearbook Committee Chair, and Ice Cream Social Chair.

- VIII. **Parking on Gilbert Rd.—Diane H.** Discussion about changing the no parking zone in front of playground. Barb said she would look into it with the Traffic Safety Committee.
- IX. **Reminder** to staff and parents to bring forth budget requests for next year at April's PTO meeting.
- X. **Discussion** of moving PTO meeting to another evening to avoid conflict with scouts' pack meetings and other events for next year. Decision was made to keep them on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, given that this year was unusual for the several changes due to holidays and Spring Break.
- XI. **Approval of amended by-laws.** Vote to approve by-laws was unanimous.
- XII Discussion of Tile Mosaic Project: From Diane Harrington:**

Last night, the PTO voted on the Tile Mosaic Project that was spelled out in detail in the most recent Rainbow Review and in the PTO meeting minutes from March that were posted on our Web site. First, however, we held more than an hour's worth of discussion. While few parents attended the meeting, a handful did offer their opinions/votes either in writing or via this e-mail list, and those votes were taken into account. A few more staff than usual showed up at the meeting, and we welcomed their input. Here's what figured into the decision:

- * The cost of the project was substantially lowered, and that fed mightily into the PTO's decision.
- * Kate Olsen, the part-time art teacher who has offered to handle the installation with the kids in her off-hours, substantially lowered her fee for what it would cost, cutting about \$700 off the total, and she's donating additional material and use of her tools to the process. Ms. Olsen agreed to accept her fee payment in installments, if the PTO deems it necessary, so we needn't pay it all in one lump sum.
- * Principal Barb Dorn rediscovered an until-now mostly unused grant that is still viable and that will apply toward this project, cutting another \$1,300 off the project.
- * The school was given a check for more than \$250 from Target (thanks to friends of ORE who use Target charge cards and designate that a percentage of their purchases go to the school), and Ms. Dorn designated that amount toward this project.
- * The PTO this past week just got a check for \$1,200 for our work parking cars at one of the UW football games this year, and that was earmarked for the project.

All that brought the total cost down to about \$1,900 - which those at the meeting felt was far more within our means than the original \$5,600 that was requested.

In addition:

- * We agreed that we would ask parents to donate a set amount of money per tile (such as \$5 - a price that will be determined later) and ask for any additional donations parents or the community might be willing to offer to help offset the PTO cost.
- * The staff members present at the meeting felt quite strongly that the project would be beneficial to the students, that it would help create a much-needed sense of community and improve the interior aesthetics of the building. They all agreed that it would be just as beneficial, if not more, as the t-shirts the PTO provides the students every year.
- * The PTO discussed the possibility of using next year's t-shirt money, which typically tops \$2,000, toward this project instead (buying only t-shirts for new students or students who need a larger size).

Diane H. asked pointed questions of the staff and the PTO as to previous large-ticket expenditures the PTO has made (such as the playground shed and the soccer nets), and no one was able to come up with anything else they think will be a substantial cost for the PTO in the next couple of years. (One exception was new surfacing or more mulch for the playground - but there is a dispute as to whether the school district should be responsible for that instead of the PTO. And costs have not been investigated for various option, even if the PTO were to undertake that plan. The staff also expressed a long-term wish for TVs/DVDs/VCRs in every classroom, but we suggested that with the upcoming federal requirement for HDTV, we might be able to get several old TVs donated for this purpose a year or two down the road; the school would only need the TVs for viewing videos and DVDs, so the HDTV issue wouldn't apply at ORE.)

Finally, we stipulated that we'd triplecheck our budget to ensure that any PTO cost for this project would still allow us to meet our typical yearly obligations and would not force us to hold another Club Choice-style fundraiser next year just to pay for the Tile Mosaic. Matt confirmed that our budget can easily withstand the \$2,000 this potentially could cost us.

Given all project-cost changes, the possible budget juggling, and the lack of other anticipated high-cost items in the next couple of years, the PTO voted in favor of the project. The vote included two hand-written "no" votes, two e-mailed "no" votes, 1 in-person "no" vote, 2 "yes" votes from people who had to leave the meeting early, and 9 "yes" in-person votes. Thank you to all who gave this subject some of your time and attention.

We're looking forward to seeing some amazing artwork inside ORE in the coming months!

XII. Other business: Track glider on playground needs to be lowered to provide better and safer usage. There was also discussion about Volunteer Appreciation and how to get a big "thanks" out to those who participate. The subject of filing for taxes if we have made over \$30,000 this year. Matt S. said he will see to it.

XIII. Adjournment