

May 2006 PTO meeting minutes  
Meeting 5/8/06 6:00

In attendance: Gretchen Olson, Kathy Statz, Karen Northey, Syrus Soltaninassab, Diane Harrington, Matt Silvern, Don Crary, Michele Hughes, Barb Dorn

April Minutes approved. Secty will start sending the final approved email minutes to OREPTO site.

### **Principal's report:**

#### Tile Project:

Panels are being installed by the district. They decided panels were better in case the tiles might ever need to be moved (which will probably never happen). The district has paid for the panels.

Kate will lay out the tiles and prepare for installation on Saturday May 13. Next week, on Tues-Fri there will be a sub in Kate's room and she will work on installing the tiles with the kids, during their art time.

#### Closing of building

The district has re-shuffled priorities and will NOT be closing the building this summer. Instead of closing for 2 summers to address the fixes, they will consolidate all the work into one summer, in the future.

There will still be no summer school at ORE this summer.

#### Registration

Registration for next year's school year is August 24, 11:00-6:00.

#### Prairie Burn

There will be a Prairie Burn at Toki soon. They will do it on a day when weather conditions are perfect, so we are not sure when it will be.

#### Dates

Talent show: 4-5 grade talent show is Tues June 6, 2:00-3:00.

Spring Concert: 3-4-5 spring concert is 5/25

Family Picnic: The family picnic will be June 7, approximately 12:00-1:00 (details will be firmed up later).

In lieu of the spaghetti lunch, we will be offering for families to buy hot dogs. Info will be sent home in backpacks.

Kindergarten Roundup: 5/22, 6:30-7:15 in A/P room. Kids will tour the rooms with teachers, and parents will stay with Barb and whoever else is there (Karen N and Gretchen O will be there as they have kindergarteners next year). Michele H will talk to parents about scrip.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration: June 8. 4<sup>th</sup> graders and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be a part of the celebration. 5<sup>th</sup> graders' families will be invited.

#### Teacher appreciation week:

Staff was very appreciative of all the food and gifts last week. Thanks to all who participated, and to Michele Hughes for organizing the whole thing!

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report cards

Currently there is an abbreviated 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report card, on which limited topics are graded. In the past we have gone from no 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report card to full 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report card. The district dictates reporting, and will likely change the format of the card next year so it shows only the topics which have been graded.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

We will end the year with about \$11-12 k in the bank. We ended with about \$2900 more profit than budgeted.

Matt ran next year's budget in 2 scenarios: one with a fall fundraiser, and one without a fall fundraiser. The budget with a fundraiser ends the year with about \$2100 in profit. Without a fall fundraiser, we are projected to end the year with about a \$2900 loss for the year. The latter budget was voted on to be the approved budget, and the vote passed. Many of us in the PTO are liking the idea of doing a *NO fundraiser fundraiser*, meaning we might have a fundraising campaign in lieu of selling stuff to make money. One Madison school had great success with their "invest in your child" campaign, just asking parents, grandparents, co-workers for money instead of buying a bunch of stuff.

## **Volunteers needed**

Next year we are still in need of the following volunteers: PTO Co-VP and Yearbook committee chair. Please spread the word.

Kathy Statz has graciously agreed to be the playground committee chair.

## **Gilbert parking**

Cindy Thomas, our alderperson, attended the meeting to hear our concerns. We told her that we do not like getting tickets when parking on Gilbert when we pick up our kids at school, and there is no other acceptable place to park. We asked if the signs could be changed to a 10 minute parking zone.

Cindy mentioned that 7 years ago the PTO had the signs installed, and enforced. Now we are asking for their removal, and this frequent change does not bode well with the police dept. Barb will email Mike Hertting to get the background on what exactly went on 7 years ago. We can also look at back issues of the rainbow review to get information.

The Orchard Ridge Community Club has worked diligently for 5 years trying to get some traffic calming on Gilbert. Cindy thinks they will agree to traffic islands very soon. These will change the parking situation. Also, Toki has plans to build a larger parking lot, which ORE teachers could use too, so that will open up a lot of legal parking space on Gilbert and Russett. With both of these changes possibly happening in the future, Cindy feels hesitant to change parking signs until we know how the situation changes with the islands and Toki lot.

For the time being, we could engage the School Traffic Safety Committee for help. They can work with the police and the school to develop a recommendation and/or safety plan.

## **Rainbow Review Changes**

Next year the RR will be reorganized to be a little more user-friendly. Here are the proposed topics it will have:

Q&A (Principle answers questions)

PTO happenings

Volunteer thanks

Upcoming events

Art Rainwater's letter

Scrip Corner

Fundraising

A unit recap by grade; what kids are working on. Intended to inform parents more

Conversation starters: Ideas for starting meaningful conversations with our kids

Social worker's corner: from Cherie

Staff Interview: A kid interviews a staff member

## **Other Business:**

- Should we consider having an after school language program next year? Other schools do it; it is very popular but also expensive to run. Karen N will look further into this option.
- How do we get a more diverse parent population to the PTO meetings? Some other schools have a dinner meeting. We decided we should try this. Matt will put money in the budget next year for 2 or 3 dinner PTO meetings.
- Summer meeting: Later we will schedule an August PTO meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:15