



General Meeting Minutes for the 2008 - 2009 Academic School Year
March 10, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.
Wilkins School Library

PTA Board Members *in attendance*:

Co-Presidents:	Krista Hanks Christine Poisson
Vice President:	Gillian Smith
Secretary:	Jil Romano
Treasurer:	Michele Donoghue

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

President's Report

- Pledge of Allegiance.
- Introduction of everyone in attendance.
- Reviewed all PTA 2009/2010 volunteer opportunities for *open* positions on the Board and various committees. A hand-out was distributed detailing the job descriptions for: President, Secretary, Magazine Drive, Reflections, Family Math Night, and Attic Resources. During the general meeting it was announced that the Family Math Night and Attic Resources chair positions were filled by attending PTA members.

Secretary's Report

The committee chairs received copies of the January 2008--2009 minutes via Email a week prior to the scheduled February General Meeting. (*Please note:* the February meeting was cancelled and copies of the January minutes were available at the General Meeting in March.) The January minutes were reviewed. Jil Romano requested a motion to receive the minutes. Shelly Kayser moved to accept the minutes. Irene Raissis Alton seconded the motion. The January 2008-2009 minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Treasurer's report for January and February 2008--2009 were reviewed at the meeting and copies were available to all that were present. The Treasurer reported that no new income was received in February. Michele Donoghue requested a motion to accept the budget for January and February and Porter Dodge second the motion.

Principal's Report

Gerry St. Amand -- Clark & Wilkins Schools

Over one hundred children shared their inventions with the attendees of our annual "Invention Convention", which took place on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at the Wilkins School Multi-purpose Room.

Three student "Invention Convention" winners shared their inventions with the Amherst School Board at the March 5 meeting. The children and their inventions were warmly received and graciously recognized.

The March 10, 2009 "Late Start" focused all participants on the strategies of "visualizing and inferring" using our text, Strategies That Work, and connecting that text with an actual lesson taught and modeled by Katy Kennedy, literacy coach, and including Maria Lemelin's second grade students.

Phase III of the Clark-Wilkins renovations will begin in June just prior to the end of school and will continue through late August. Renovations will include: reconfiguration of the office areas at both schools, relocation and expansion of the health offices at both schools, upgraded heating and electrical work at both schools, installation of a handicapped lift at Clark School, expansion of the art room at Wilkins School, and expansion of the boiler room at Wilkins.

For the upcoming school year, Clark and Wilkins will each house four first grade classrooms.

Due to declining enrollments, Wilkins School will reduce one classroom at second and one classroom at third grade.

Several student volunteers have brought forward proposals to begin recycling at Wilkins School and the input of the building maintenance and facility staff members are being solicited as part of the proposal.

The building administrators would like to consider using several grants to fund the cost of Tee-shirts for all students, staff members, and Field Day volunteers to wear on Field Day and to keep as mementos of Clark-Wilkins Field Day 2009.

Due to the increasing numbers of families impacted negatively by our current economic downturn, we plan to delay our proposal to begin the "Power of the Penny" fundraiser.

The building renovations planned for the summer months will once again limit access for staff members, students, and families to both schools.

Since "Meet and Greet" sessions will not be able to take place prior to the start of the school year, teachers will conduct those sessions during the first two weeks of school.

Incoming Kindergarten students will tentatively visit their "new classrooms" in June 2009.

Incoming Kindergarten students will be attending screening sessions during the week of March 31st to assist us in designing classes for the upcoming school year.

In order to give students the opportunity to meet their teachers prior to the start of the new school year, we plan to conduct "Step-up Day" on the last day of school, in conjunction with the "Step-up Day" that the Amherst Middle School employs.

As part of our annual placement process, guidelines for parents will be included in the April "Principal's Newsletter" for those families who wish to provide a written narrative detailing specific needs for any child

We hope to provide some type of orientation for new families prior to the start of the school year.

At their March 5th meeting, the Amherst School Board gave approval to the 2009-2010 calendar, which marks Tuesday, September 1, 2009 as the first day of school for students. The Souhegan and Mont Vernon School Boards must also approve the proposed calendar before it is finalized.

700 students are enrolled for next year at both Clark & Wilkins. Clark & Wilkins is reducing five positions at all levels, including positions for speech pathology and special education. There will also be one less 2nd and 3rd class.

Porter Dodge -- Amherst Middle School

Enrollment numbers are flat. Total of 805 for the 2009/2010 academic school year. Approximately 946 was the recent trend.

Hope the Vote was passed. If not, a "default" budget needs to be built.

Late start focus was on the NECAP and drilling down on questions that are missed and determine what approach/strategies are needed for critical areas.

Letters for annual placement. Don't request a teacher. Tell Porter about your child, what works well from teacher to child.

Some of the criteria for the student classroom selection process:

- ◆ Reading/Math levels
- ◆ Scores (from screenings and other tests e.g., DIBELS, NECAP, NWEA, etc.)
- ◆ Grades
- ◆ Services needed
- ◆ Child personality

Receiving teachers have no input on selection process.

School Board

Peg Bennett -- SAU#39 PTA Representative

Absent. No report.

Committee Reports

Curriculum Enrichment at AMS. To complement the study of Africa, seventh grade students had a unique opportunity to meet a citizen of Rwanda who now lives in the United States. Justin Mazimpaka brought in authentic African art and discussed the symbolism of the various pieces. He also talked with students in a gentle and thoughtful manner about the issues in Rwanda and how he was able to escape the Hutu genocide attacks. His style encouraged discussion and provided students with a firsthand account of life in Rwanda.

Reflections. This year's Reflections State Ceremony will be held on Monday, March 16th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Gilbert H. Hood Middle School in Derry, NH. The snow date will be March 17, 2009 same time and place. Please refer to the State PTA's website at: www.NHPTA1.org for more information. We hope to see you all there! Three, first place that will go on to national. Remember, next year's theme is: Beauty is . . .

Math Night. Wonderful turn-out. Teachers coming and participating adds a wonderful piece to the event.

Play. 57 years running. Peter Pan is scheduled for April 16th - 19th. Tickets are on sale at Moulton's Market, Toadstool, Homestead, and Black Forest. Please encourage purchases. Still taking adds for the playbill and it is a great way to support the PTA play.

The Peter "Pancake" breakfast will be held at the Black Forest Cafe with various cast members. Ticket sale deadline for reservations is March 25th. Two seatings: 8:30 am and 9:30. Cost is \$7 and includes an autograph placemat, pancake, and some other surprises.

The play for next year is in the works.

Art to Remember. Tallying orders this week at Aileen's house Wednesday through Friday. Seemed to have a good amount of orders from Wilkins School. Totals to be announced at next meeting.

Bellringer. Due the 16th.

Grants. Presented information about the grant process to the teachers at Clark & Wilkins and explained to them what it is all about at their recent staff meeting. Deadline for submitting grants is April 6th.

Adjournment

Krista Hanks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Christine Poisson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Submitted by:

Jil Romano

Secretary

Next Meeting: April 14, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m. Wilkins Library

Contact Information

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