

Minutes of Russell PTO MEETING: May 13, 2009

Called to Order by Karen Rice at 7:00 PM

Principal's Report: Mrs. Smith

- Mrs. Smith thanked everyone involved with all of the recent successful events, including the Elementary Band, the Invention Convention, and the Kindergarten Orientation.
- The present teachers were introduced: Ms. Leidy and Mrs. Pierce, both from 2nd Grade.
- Everyone is urged to keep an eye on the weekly communicator during this action packed last few weeks of the school year.

Co-Presidents' Reports: Karen Rice

- Barnes & Noble night is on Tuesday, 6/2. Our school will earn a minimum of 10% of the total sales for the items purchased during the event and during the week following the event with a voucher. Required summer reading books through the 6th grade will be available for purchase.
- The new sound system P.O. was cut this week. The system will be installed over the summer and unveiled next fall.
- Although no one can figure out why, Ms. Leidy won the Lemonface Award in support of Alex's Lemonade Stand and Mrs. Pierce came in 2nd! Thanks to two good sports supporting a good cause.
- Another amazing Field Day was enjoyed by all. The new events were a big hit. Miss Miller is thanked for her usual fabulous organizational skills.
- There are still openings for the following volunteer positions:
 - School Board Delegate
 - HOOPS Organizer
 - Back To School Night
 - Fundraising
 - Skate Night
 - Art Coordinator
 - Soccer Stand
 - Indoor Beautification

Grab a friend and share a position! Many hands make light work!

Treasurer's Report: Ann Conca

- A printout of the budget was distributed.
- We will be about \$6000 over budget by year end and will need to decide how to spend the surplus.

Teacher's Reports:

- Ms. Leidy and Mrs. Pierce were in attendance.
- Mrs. Pierce relayed the 4th grade teachers' appreciation of the help given to produce the successful Invention Convention. She also detailed the fun Fiesta on Cinco de Mayo that doubled as a social studies event – with snack.
- Ms. Leidy conveyed Miss Miller's gratitude for the PTO's generosity in covering the cost of the children's lunch at Field Day. Mrs. Makela said that the PTO is *simply the best* and to please let everyone know that circulation of Library books ends June 1st.

Committee Reports

ACME Receipts / Boxtops for Education – Kerry Levy

ACME Receipts for 2009 totaled \$2407, a \$300 increase over last year. Box Tops also topped out at \$638.09.

Assemblies – Kristy Luke & Meredith Gerhard

The final assembly will be the laser light show on Friday 5/15.

Beautification: Indoor – Debbie Stellabotte & Mary Passaro

Beautification: Outdoor – Suzanne Carini

Birthday Bulletin Board – Amy Parnak

Bricks – Jennifer Pedley

Info will be coming out next week in the envelopes.

Character Awards – Christine Pancoast

Enews – Karen Rice

Field Day – Claire Mellman

Fifth Grade Activities – Heather Coghlan

Fun Fair – Deb Lillard & Macaira Koch

Fund Raising – Jennifer Hannig

Grocery Gift Cards (AKA SCRIP) – June Eicholz & Colleen Picozzi

Homeroom Parents – Maureen Noble

Hospitality – Donna Mugler

"Thank you to Brynne Burke and Nancy Fritz for assisting me with the refreshments after the Evening of the Arts Performance last week. Hospitality is also proud to provide popsicles to the incoming Kinder 2009/2010 class."

Library – Karen Carr

Outreach – Claire Mellman

Outdoor Sign – Meredith Gerhard

Packets – Colleen Smith

Pizza Bingo – Macaira Koch

Russell Hoops – Claire Mellman

School Board Delegate – Dawn O'Neill

Skate Night – Janet Hollingshead

Spiritwear – Theresa Turnier

The new company and its fresh designs were very well received this year.

Teacher Appreciation – Christine Pancoast

Yearbook – Pia McClure

New Business

- Karen Rice drew one name from the ballot box used for PTO Secretary nominations – Karen Grey. Karen Rice officially moved to elect Karen Grey. Helene Piscitelli enthusiastically, but with decorum, seconded that motion.
 - **VOTE:** Elect Karen Grey to be the 2009/2010 PTO Secretary?
 - **RESULT:** Yes (Unanimous)
- How PTO funds should be spent in general was discussed.
 - Historically, Russell PTO spends money on larger ticket items that would otherwise be less likely to be purchased.
 - The possibility of a teacher budget reduction bailout was proposed to help cover some Fall start-up costs.
 - Some larger ticket items like classroom rugs, entrance mats and playground or garden benches were also discussed.
- Ways to simplify the back to school supply list making and ways to purchase those items were a topic also discussed. Some items are not needed by all teachers in a grade. Some items might best be purchased in advance in bulk for the students due to price breaks and difficulty locating them retail.

Announcements:

Next PTO Meeting is September, 2009

All School Board and Committee meetings can be found here:

<http://www.mnsd.net/board/boardcalendar.html>

Meeting Adjourned At: 8:24 PM

Minutes Compiled By: Helene Piscitelli, Secretary