

PTA Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2011
8:45am
RSS Cafeteria

Present:

Jennifer Belew
Peggy Reed
Hedy Cardozo
Robin Gould
Patty Chernick
Shizue Cohen

Maureen Braren
Bonnie Ackerman
Kim Palumbo
Kelly Lieberman
Susan Rosson
Bill Stark

Tracy Taylor
Deborah Weisel
Karen Bronson
Robyn Weintraub
Felicia DePaola
Jennifer Schlactus

Motion to approve minutes from May meeting: Felicia DePaola, second: Adele Saunders.

Students' Colonial Day thank you cards are on display.

Slate for 2011-2012 school year (see attachment)

Maureen presents slate. All in favor, none opposed. Slate passes.

Adele Saunders, Treasurer

- June 30th is end of our fiscal year. We want all expenses paid before then. July 1 begins the new budget.
- Sound board financing request will be discussed over the summer, after finances are finalized for the year.
- PTA total income for the year: \$102,912 (before expenses).

Susan Rosson, Programming

- Spirit Day, Staff Appreciation lunch; both were great.
- Programming done for the year.
- Next event is the Ice Cream Social in August. Need to confirm chairperson for the event.

Adjourn for 5 minutes while administration arrives

Bill Stark, Superintendent

- It's hot. Some districts are closing early due to the extreme heat. All of our classrooms are air conditioned (except this cafeteria).
- Yesterday I attended a meeting at the Westchester School Boards Association with Suzie Oppenheimer and Andrea Stewart-Cousins.
- The 2% tax cap is coming. May help to write letters directly to the Governor with concerns.
- 60% passing rate can overrule the tax cap. Our average school budget passing rate is 68%, so this may not affect us. However, it now means that 41% of voters can defeat a budget, instead of 51%.
- We've managed to keep our increases below 2% because we've cut everywhere. Not much more we can do to keep that up. We can hold those rates for a few more years, but soon it will affect classroom/programming.
- There is no indication from the state that there will be mandate relief any time soon. If economy improves that will help.
- Years ago I gave George Latimer a 4 page list of unfunded mandates that we pay for. Many are reasonable, many don't cost a lot of money, but some are concerning. For example:
 - School districts have to pay pension costs, but we don't set the rate.
 - We have to pay salary step increases even if contract has expired.
 - We pay for virtually all out-of-district transportation. (\$450/year per student in district, vs. \$7700/year per student out of district—for 80-90 students)
- I predict a growing gap in services provided by more affluent communities compared to less affluent communities.

Deborah Weisel, RSS Principal

- One-on one final reading assessments for the year are happening now.
- Placement concerns: if you sent me a letter or spoke with me about your child's placement, Tracy and I have been discussing it all along—your requests are known.
- 4th grade end-of-year party currently outside.
- Upcoming Green Key ceremony.
- Xee Rothmann dedication on June 16.
- Ms. Falco is out, but plans to be back in July.
- Teachers want to remind you that the school year is not over. Please help keep your children focused on the work still to be done.
- We will have the CDs soon and will distribute them to the kids.

Tracy Taylor, Incoming RSS Principal

- Search is underway for new Assistant Principal.

Karen Bronson, MS Principal

- This could be my very last PTA meeting...
- Incoming Principal Pat Lambert is wonderful.
- Diane of Diane's Books was here to talk with 6th graders. She's truly a 'book lady' and I highly recommend her store in Greenwich.
- 7th and 8th graders have finals and Regents.
- 6th graders have a variety of activities (no finals): ELA Reader's Theater, math projects, Talent Show, Field Day.

Motion to adjourn: Kim Palumbo. Second: Hedy Cardozo.

PTA Slate for 2011-2012 School Year

Presidents

Felicia DePaola
Jen Schlactus

Ways and Means

Robin Gould
Patty Chernick

Programming

Susan Rosson
Pam Sunshine

Membership

Cheryl Artabane
Kelly Lieberman

Liaisons

RSS: Jen Kitchen
MS: Debbie Handler
HS: Bonnie Ackerman

Legal

Beth Singer

Recording Secretary

Robyn Weintraub

Corresponding Secretary

Leslie Mook

Treasurer

Adele Saunders