

PTA Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2011
8:45 am
RSS Cafeteria

Present:

Emily Turtill
Trang Vuong
S. Dennis
Kim Palumbo
Wendy Adler
Jennifer Starr
Shizue Cohen
Hedy Cardozo
Pam Sunshine

Leslie Mook
Sarin Bachmann
Patty Chernick
Cheryl Artabane
Adele Saunders
Jaime Coffey
Peggy Reed
Jennifer Belew
Sheri Zarkower

Nancy Barr
Jen Schlactus
Felicia DePaola
Shari Savitt
Bill Stark
Tracy Taylor
Robyn Weintraub
Valery Schwartz

Motion to accept September minutes: Felicia DePaola; second: Cheryl Artabane

Bill Stark, Superintendent

- Last BOE meeting was well attended. Dr. Ross, Ms. Healy and I made a presentation on the implications of the 2% cap.
 - First of all, we estimate our cap to be 1.67%
 - Ms. Healy was a parent and employee in a tax cap state for 30 years. She provided perspective on the challenges of the cap.
 - I made recommendations to the BOE if they want a tax cap budget. They are just suggestions of areas to cut, so that the BOE could pick and choose.
 - It's hard to know what a July budget should look like in October.
 - I urge you all to attend the Nov. 7th meeting. The BOE is looking for community input. The BOE needs to give me instructions—will they propose a cap or an override?
 - If you don't get a 60% pass vote on an override budget, after the second try the budget will revert to 0%, which would have dramatic consequences.

Parent Q: I was at the meeting. We're going to face this every year. If we don't vote to override now, will that make it harder to do so in the future?

A: It's a mathematical answer—the higher the budget, the more the allowed increase. Had we spent more last year, we wouldn't have been 'penalized' with the 1.67% allowance. Each year is different.

Heard in Rye: Maida Robinson has been our Heard in Rye representative, but can no longer do it, is anyone else interested? You would help determine speakers, programs, etc... It would require 1 Tuesday afternoon per month. We pay Heard in Rye \$2500/year so that our parents can attend all events.

Adele Saunders, Treasurer

- We paid \$7K for the soundboard.
- The Arts Advisory Committee said they had \$3K to contribute to the soundboard. Apparently that's not the case.
- Jen/Felicia: stop the check. Tell the Arts Committee that the PTA will be happy to put up the agreed \$7K if they come up with the rest as initially discussed.

Parent Q: How can each school's 'special projects' money be used?

A: It must be used by the principal for a 1 year special project (assembly, program, etc...). It's a good way to try out something new. It cannot be used for recurring or yearly events—that needs to get budgeted elsewhere.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report: Cheryl Artabane; second: Hedy Cardozo

Patty Chernick, Ways and Means

- After School Activities had low enrollment, but we didn't need to cancel too many classes. Enrollment is always lower in the fall—more conflicts, and K is not eligible until the spring. Some possible classes for the spring: sign language and chess.
- There will be a Holiday School Store. Shopping is underway. Will probably be three days in mid-December. We will need help with wrapping gifts.
- Don't forget to register your Stop & Shop card every year.
- Pumpkin Fair is officially cancelled. There was a lack of volunteers and this is a very volunteer-heavy event.

Parent Q: Can you do a holiday store in the Middle School?

A: Great idea (although probably will require very different merchandise). We can talk to Ms. Lambert about it.

Comic Book Fair—Emily Turtil

- We had a great comic book fair last year and raised around \$2500. Because of the legal problems at Archie, we cannot do it with them this year.

- We can either wait until the litigation is resolved (2013?) or do a comic book fair with a store and sell comic books from a variety of publishers.
- Sandra Dennis will be the new co-chair.

Pam Sunshine, Programming

- Young Writers Conference has a new chair, Rachel Leland. Mr. Pesce has agreed to do the magic show again. Probably will be sometime in March.

Cheryl Artabane, Membership

- Our profit on the DAF to date is \$3102. Almost all books have been distributed.
- Jen and Felicia: Thank you so much to you, Kelly and Ellen. The books are beautiful and we know it was a tremendous amount of work.

Tracy Taylor, RSS Principal and Birthday Girl

- I'm excited that the Writer's Conference is returning.
- We can do a Comic Book Fair if the books come from a store and provide a variety of titles.
- Snack: Whitson's had a new employee and which slowed down service so we had to do alternating snack days. We may be back to every day snack soon.
- We are working on improving the gravel parking situation. We need lanes.

Parent Q: Why are they serving reduced fat products with lots of chemical ingredients?

A: We will look into that.

Peanut allergy tables: if a product is made in a facility that also produces nut products, the child with that product must sit at the peanut table.

Parent Q: Why can't we just separate the kids in classes where a child has an allergy?

A: Allergy info is confidential. Hildie does a great job in keeping that info private, as well as keeping us informed about how to be sensitive to the needs of all kids.

Should DAF be sold to people who do not have children in the district? Some Rye Brook organizations and people have requested it.

Some parents have on file that they don't want their info made public. We have a legal duty not to distribute their info outside of the school community. Our policy will be that

we do not knowingly sell or distribute the DAF to anyone who does not have children in the schools.

Daily Rye.com is trying to encourage traffic to their website. If our school gets 500 votes, they will give us \$500. Jen will register the school and send out an email.

Parent Q: Can the PTA discuss Mr. Stark's list of potential cuts?

A: No, that cannot be a PTA issue.

Nancy Barr, BOE:

- Please keep the budget conversation cordial. Take the high road, be calm, not inflammatory.
- CBAC is an open BOE committee. Meetings are open to the public.
- All NY districts are facing the same situation. We will keep an eye on neighboring districts to see what they are doing.

Motion to adjourn: Kim Palumbo; second: Valery Schwartz