

Governor Winslow School PTO

General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 5, 2005

In attendance: PTO Board Members: Andrea Crowther, President; Christine Judson, Public Relations; Sharon Afanasiw, Secretary; MaryAnn McDonald, Acting Treasurer; Jane Manning and Chris Godino, Teacher Reps, Dennis Oakman, Principal and several other GWS teachers, PTO members and parents, for a total of 29 attendees, altogether. The Meeting was held at the GWS and commenced promptly at 7:00 PM.

Distribution Items: Meeting Agenda, GWS PTO Proposed Budget 2005-06 School Year and GWS PTO Statement of Receipts and Disbursements, dated October 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 (Preliminary for Discussion Purposes Only)

Welcome & Board Introductions – Andrea Crowther called the meeting to order, and began with introductions of the Board members, followed by a summary of goals for this year. She also noted the correlation of parental involvement with the quality of children’s academic achievements.

Treasury – MaryAnn McDonald submitted and reviewed the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements. The Proposed 2005-06 budget was also reviewed and Andrea answered questions posed on several of the line items. No major changes were made to either treasury document.

GWS PTO Website – Andrea introduced parent, Steve Friedland who along with his wife, Eileen will maintain GWS website. The site is GWSPTO.org. Steve and Eileen could use the help of any parents with desktop publishing experience on updating the site. Steve noted that the website would be useful for keeping everyone informed, provide the ability to download forms, provide an e-mail list useful in putting together the GWS newsletter, and it could also be a good source of revenue. Steve explained how taking out advertising space (which is free) on several different websites--such as, Marshfield.net, Boston.com, google.com and amazon.com could generate revenue for our PTO. For example, on Amazon.com, PTO could advertise for particular age-appropriate children’s books and each time one of these particular books is clicked-on and purchased through Amazon, the GWS PTO would receive a financial contribution.

Elections –
PTO Board

- Treasurer – Gail Dooley was nominated and elected as Treasurer
 - Vice President – Kelly Barnes was nominated and elected as Vice President
- School Council** – Dennis Oakman described the function of the school council as a group of teachers, representatives from throughout the town and 4 GWS parent representatives (who will serve a 2-year term) to work together on the inner workings of the school, for example, the development of the Parent Handbook. The council meets once a month on a Thursday from 3:00 – 4:00 PM. The school council needs two parent representatives. The following two parents were elected to school council for the next two years: Heidi Conway and Michelle Chaffee

Committee & Activity Updates:

School Beautification (Amy Lowe) – Amy shared her ideas, and Mr. Oakman commented (and many agreed) that of the many years he has been at the GWS, this is the best the school has looked.

Family Directory – Sharon Afanasiw reported that of the 477 students in the school, family directory information was filled out for a little over 300 so far, with only a small number indicating they did not want to participate. There was concern over the \$500 cost listed to print the directory. Andrea suggested she may know a printer who would donate the cost of the project. Mr. Oakman suggested using the school copy machine for the copies. Volunteers agreed to help with this project. It was voted to put a ceiling on the cost of printing this document of \$150 for this year. The particulars of this document will have to be revisited for next year, for instance the possibility of charging families \$1 for the directory to cover the cost of printing.

Membership Drive – Andrea reported that 37% of the school returned membership forms. Mrs. Brennan's class won the participation contest with 65% of her class returning forms.

5th Grade Activities - Stephne Haddad reported that her group of parent and student volunteers raised \$1,036 during the bake sale at the Open House toward the 5th Grade Yearbook.

Box Top Labels –Contest is being re-run of October 13th through October 20th.

Family Dinner Out – (Karen Maull) – Andrea talked about a potential dinner night at Wendy's the week following issuing of report cards.

Jog-A-thon – Andrea reported that the pledge envelopes were sent out today. The Jog-A-thon begins the week of October 17th.

Holiday Festival – (Jennifer Mundt) Maureen Bradley will co-chair with Jennifer.

Faculty Appreciation – Andrea commented on how pleased the teacher's with Lisa Goodsell's beautiful work of decorating for October. Amy O'Sullivan will decorate for November.

Magical Mailbox – Marta MacFarland reported about a program at the Daniel Webster School where children compose a little story and it is published in a newsletter-type format twice a year and distributed to all children possibly during a lunch session. The group was very receptive.

Adjournment – Andrea invited the group to attend the next PTO Board meeting on Thursday October 13th at 10:00 AM at the GWS Conference Room. The next PTO General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25th, at 7:00 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The above notes were prepared and respectfully submitted by PTO Secretary, Sharon Afanasiw. If anyone has any questions, comments or changes, please inform me by e-mail safan@gis.net or call 781-837-7404.