

PTO Meeting Minutes – March 6, 2012

I. Treasurer's Report – Karen Barrett

- Reviewed the current budget
- Texas Roadhouse numbers – Karen Mccue will get the final number from the restaurant. It seemed like good turn out but the number seemed lower than expected.
- Enrichment had enough money to cover the programs for this school year.

II. Principal's Report – Mrs. Killion

- Boks programs is going very well. It has 30 students participating with a waitlist. We thought the waitlist may clear if students didn't end up coming but it has not been cleared since all students that are enrolled are participating. There is a great group of parents that are helping the 2 leaders. Special thanks given to Kim Federico for her involvement to get it up and running. Great feedback on the whole program!
- For the month of February the students were asked to share compliments as part of the open circle curriculum and they were read over the loud speaker each day.
- Enrichment programs have been very successful. Mrs. Killion will post some videos and photos soon on the school website.
- March is Read across America month. There are a variety of activities focused on books and readings through out the month. The classes celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday. On Wednesday there is Read Aloud trivia at lunch. On Mondays there is a "First Lines" competition where the students are given the 1st line of a book and they have to guess the book. On March 19th they will try and guess what book it is by looking at the picture on the cover. There is a poster in the library of the teachers as readers.
- Mrs. Fleming has a need for a "clothing fund" for the nurse's office. The PTO approved \$100 for her to spend on the necessary clothing. She could also use some donations of sweatshirts, t-shirts, etc.
- Earth Day clean up will be held on Saturday, April 7th. Mrs. Killion will send out more details about this as the date approaches.

III. Guest Speaker – Paul Samargedlis – School Committee Chairman

- He has been on the committee for 6 years and is up for re-election on April 2nd. He wants to stay on the committee to focus on long range plans for our schools.
- He wants to fight for stability in the Superintendent position. He says to keep this position and other leadership positions at the school is key to keeping the school system going in the correct direction.
- He complimented the Prescott on all of our initiatives since so much of what the PTO covers is not in the school budget.
- He attended the budget meeting last week and some of the items that were suggested but not agreed upon were cuts to the librarians, freshmen sports, and elementary music. At the PTO meeting the final cuts were not decided. He felt strongly against some of the cuts since they were supported in part by parents whose children no longer were at those grade levels.
- Mrs. Killion pointed out that Donna Miller does much more than Library work. She does all the tech support and sets up programs like Read Aloud. A cut to the librarian position would be far reaching.
- Mr. Samargedlis said that the budget they are told they will have isn't enough to run our district. They were told to eliminate the 2.2 million from the number.
- As a parent what can we do to support our schools is to attend the town meetings. Anyone can attend but you will need to register to speak. His suggestion is to support moving unused funds from the operating budget to help with the cuts that are being asked to be made.
- He feels strongly about class size being too large and Prescott staff agrees. In the 4th grade Mrs. Carta has 27 students and it is not possible to walk around the room and help all the students as much as they need.
- He also feels that in order to make the community strongly support education that there should be more community involvement specifically to support education. The upcoming meetings are April 25th (public meeting) and May 9th (register if you want to speak). Strength in numbers to support the school.
- NOTE: Mrs. Killion has a link to the budget information on the Prescott website.

IV. MCAS – Mrs. Killion, Mrs. Thornton and Mrs. Carta

- A comprehensive look at how they teach to support the MCAS was given. A strong emphasis is placed on not teaching to the test but actually teaching skills they will need throughout their education.

- Mrs. Killion has links on the Prescott website to the Department of Education websites that deal directly with the MCAS. It is a state mandated test that measures student performance on the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework learning Standards. She also has sent around the schedule for our students.
- Depending on the grade level the types of questions asked are Multiple choice, Short answer, Short response, Open response and Long composition.
- Students are responsible to read the text, manage the text and answer questions based on the text. Students are taught how to answer the questions and where to find the answers. The teachers reinforce that they should not rely on memory but to go back into the text to find answers.
- The teachers gave many examples of types of questions and answers that could be very helpful for parents, (examples can be found on the DOE website).
- The length of time it takes to complete the tests varies by type of test.