

**Minutes of the Southeast PTO
October 2, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Norma Fisher-Doiron, Edmond Chibeau, Monique Brown, Karen Sommer, Lesley Sweeney, Kim O'Keefe, Julie Brown, Ron Baker, Sue Charron, Laura Blum, Kimberly Christenson, Linda Blum

THANK YOU'S: Edmond Chibeau

Karen Mitlitsky ,

For the huge job of directing this year's Fall Carnival and coming up with many new ideas, with the help of

Christina Thompson, Kim Ewalt, Jen Schletter, Melissa Shashok, Leah Grover, Nanette Bidwell, & Richelle Strimple

Kimberly Clark & Margaret Morrison

For their tireless work shepherding the silent auction, soliciting donors and seeing it through to conclusion, with the help of

Linda Blum, Edmond Chibeau, Juliana Barret, Jean Phillips, Julie Brown, Karen Mitlitsky, Bub Zuraw, Christiane Burkhard, Irene Sheehan, The Cox Family, Kimberly Christenson, Kim O'Keefe, Norma Fisher-Doiron, Jen Schletter, Kim Ewalt, Gordon Clark, Amy Chibeau, Patricia Leavens, and Louanne Cooley

Richelle Strimple

*For coordinating the rather scrumptious bake sale & cake walk with the help of
Many talented Southeast bakers!*

Karen Mitlitsky & Jen Schletter

For donating the cost of the Horse & Carriage rides

Nanette Bidwell

For donating the supplies for the T-Shirt Tie Dye Craft

Jane Hazzard & Nancy Banfield

For handling the Silent Auction prize deliveries and late pick-ups.

Ms. Harakaly, Ms. Robichaud, Mr. Warinsky, Dr. Armstrong, Ms. Vaughn

For donating "special time with the teacher" for nature walk & letterboxing, going out for pizza, fishing trip, skating lesson & violin lesson to the Silent Auction

Mr. Maheu

Donating one of his special hand made Sugar Eggs

Ms. O'Connel-Buckley

For Clowning Around to the delight of Southeast Children

Ms. Parker

For Coordinating the Carnival Clean-up

The rest of the Teachers for coordinating Classroom Baskets with the help of generous Southeast Parents.

The entire Southeast Community for supporting the Fall Carnival, including many of the staff who put up with various inconveniences on the Carnival's behalf.

Karen Sommer

for a tremendous amount of work running the glow-stick sales at the town fireworks, with **Christiane Burkhard, Lesley & Steve Sweeney, Sean Cox, Julie Brown, Amy & Edmond Chibeau, Jade Blanchard & Jen Brisson.**

Heather Spottiswood

For her work setting up the Fall Giftwrap & Gifts Fundraiser

The following individuals donated to the Silent Auction

Alan Newton, Amy Gorin and Steven Stacey, Andrew Ewalt, Anne Newmyer, Barbara Katz, Paul Tesik, Blanche Serban, Bub Zuraw, Christiane Burkhard, Ciara Lowe, Eric Gamache, Gordon Clark, Hayes Family, Ken Jones, Kristine and Robert Thorson, Lester Family, Linda Blum, Lisa Kruger, Louanne Cooley, Paul Zelanski, Ruth Sangree, Sergeant Cox, Shirley Ernst, PhD, Susannah Richards, PhD, The F.T. Morrison Family, The Phillips Family, The Schroeder Family, Tom Menard, Ursula Gall, Zoma Spivak,

And several anonymous but generous Southeast Families

We hope the Southeast Community will thank the Businesses & Organizations listed below who generously donated to the Silent Auction

Cars & Service

CAPITOL CHRYSLER, DODGE AND JEEP, GATES GMC, LONDON TIRE, WILLIMANTIC CAR WASH

Crafts

DEB NEWTON OF BLUEBIRD COUNTRY QUILTING, THE LILY PAD, THE KNITTING NOOK, YARNS WITH A TWIST,

Education

ARTS IN MOTION, COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, FROG BRIDGE GYMNASICS, MISS KELLY'S DANCE AND DRAMA, SYLVAN LEARNING, CHEF CATHERINE MAGALDI-LEWIS,

Entertainment

EMS , ARIZONA RATTLERS , BATTER'S BOX , BLOCKBUSTER , CONNECTICUT REPERTORY THEATER , CONNECTICUT SUN BASKETBALL, FOXWOODS CASINO, HARTFORD STAGE , HOLIDAY HILL , INDIAN HOLLOW STABLES, JOSHUA'S TRUST, KID CITY, MANSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER , MANSFIELD MOVIEPLEX , MOHEGAN SUN, MOVIE GALLERY, MYSTIC AQUARIUM , MYSTIC SEAPORT , OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE, OLYMPIA SPORTS, PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS, THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, TRAVEL PLANNERS, UCONN ATHLETICS , UCONN MEN'S SOCCER TEAM , WADSWORTH ATHENEUM, WILI BOWL ,

Restaurant & Food Suppliers

WING EXPRESS, ALTNAVEIGH, ANGELLINO'S, APPLEBEE'S, ASIAN BISTRO, BIG Y , BLIMPIE'S (STORRS), CHANG'S GARDEN , CHINA EAST , CROOKE ORCHARDS, DOMINO'S (STORRS), DUNKIN DONUTS, FRED'S BRICK HOUSE CAFÉ , FRIENDLY'S (STORRS), HIGHLAND PARK MARKET , KATHY JOHN'S, LAP TOP LUNCHEs, MANSFIELD GENERAL STORE , MANSFIELD'S RESTAURANT, MARGARITAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT, McDONALD'S, MUNSON'S CHOCOLATES, NATHAN HALE INN & CONFERENCE CENTER, OLIVER'S WINE AND SPIRITS, PAPA GINO'S , RUBY TUESDAYS, SARA'S POCKETS , STOP & SHOP, TRADER JOE'S, VANILLA BEAN , WILD SCALLION MARKET, WILLIMANTIC BREWING COMPANY, WILLIMANTIC FOOD COOP , WILLINGTON PIZZA HOUSE , WING EXPRESS

Hair Styling

A CUT ABOVE , COST CUTTERS , HAIR TRENDZ II, RK HAIR DESIGNS - MEGAN CORNELL, SUDS & SCISSORS

Health

CHANGES AT HAND (RESERVOIR COMMONS), CVS STORRS, CURVES, DR. JOHN FURLONG ND, DR. KAREN CALEF, ORTHODONTIST, DRs. TANDY AND KORUS GENERAL AND FAMILY DENTISTRY, FUTURE FITNESS, GNC, MANSFIELD PEDIATRICS, STORRS DRUG, SZAFAREK DENTAL OFFICE, DR. STEVEN TISHLER, WALGREEN'S PHARMACY , DR. LUCIE WU-SCIGLIANO

Home & Garden

ARTISTIC TOUCHES , EDMONSON'S , GREEN THUMBS CLUB, HOCKANUM GARDENS , JOHN GAGNON'S PET RESORT, LADD'S GARDEN CENTER, LANE REMODELING, MANSFIELD SELF STORAGE, MANSFIELD SUPPLY, O.L. WILLARD'S OF WILLIMANTIC, OUR HOUSE CLEANING PRODUCTS, PAUL JOHNSON OF RED TAIL SERVICES, PETS PLUS, POTTER'S OIL, RHODE ISLAND SOAP WORKS , SHERWIN WILLIAMS, TJX COMPANIES, TRUE VALUE, UCONN FLORICULTURE

Financial Services

LIBERTY BANK, PEOPLE'S BANK

Miscellaneous

ANTIQUARIAN & LANDMARK SOCIETY

AMERICAN GIRL
BABY E
BARNES & NOBLE
C&G PHOTO
CONNECTICUT FOREST AND PARKS ASSOCIATION
FLOWERS BY NINA
SOUTHEAST PTO
STAPLES
THE HOOT
UConn COOP
WALMART
WRITE AWAY STATIONERY

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Norma Fisher Doiron

Calendar of Events passed around to review

Fair an outstanding success. Thank you to all who helped out. We have never gone over \$6,000 in the history of the carnival. We are estimating \$11,000 profit. The food and horse & buggy were a hit. More/different games a hit as well. It was a gorgeous day and a fun community event. This year we kept track of where tickets were used to help plan for next year. Karen Mitlinsky was phenomenal – seen on the cell phone, coordinating details. Margaret Morrision's efforts were highlighted as she was seen out all day in the community soliciting sponsors/donors. Jen Schletter organized the games and she and Karen are already planning to head the event next year. A suggestion was given for people to go back to the donors and say "I saw you at the silent auction at Southeast" to encourage future participation. The carnival will be evaluated more next meeting. Edmond felt that the extra hour paid off as the carnival was busy until the end.

Norma mentioned that she sent home a green flyer last week On Wed at 7pm in the Council Chambers there will be a public hearing on school facilities. They are looking to expand our building – including a new library and some storage that will free up two classrooms. We need people to show up to support these renovations. There is currently a 5 year plan but they actually want to do it in three. All three elementary schools are looking to expand. Our current Library/Computer Lab is not "state of the art" for the 21st century. Our closets are overloaded. We need to upgrade the heating system and air quality. The condition of the portables will be addressed. Norma originally planned for the portables to last 10 years. Everything is in the beginning stages of planning.

Lunch Waves: Norma addressed some questions about the current lunch waves. We have to follow the guidelines for instructional minutes, we need adult coverage, and the multipurpose room is involved, affecting PE classes tremendously. The model of eating in the classrooms has travel time involved affecting how much time children can actually eat. We are right now rotating out classes to accommodate the third class of kindergarteners. Norma invited parents to attend any upcoming scheduling meetings. The ice cream program was brought up. Norma mentioned that it is offered 3 days a week. School lunch prices will go up tremendously if ice cream is not offered. It is not

offered on pizza or pasta days (Wed or Thursdays) because the lines are already so long. The Wellness committee has looked at the nutritional value of the ice cream and it is OK. Some parents refuse to force a child to finish lunch before ice cream. Beth Gankofsky, Director of Food Services assures that the ice cream is a quality product. A Southeast parent, Sally Milius, is on our nutritional committee and should be considered a representative to go to with questions. Vicki Daniels, Diane Hutton and Norma are also on the Wellness Committee. Nutritional details are always calculated carefully before making up our menus, which involves many choices for the children.

TEACHER'S REPORT: Monique Brown

\$180 was earned at the Alex's Lemonade stand held at the Fun Fair. The money goes to pediatric cancer research and the children had a great time running it.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Monique Brown

September's minutes were reviewed.

AMENDMENTS: None at this time.

Motion for acceptance by: Ron Baker

2nd by : Karen Sommer

All in Favor Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lesley Sweeney

September's Report was reviewed:

Highlights:

- Glow Sticks at Festival on the Green Fireworks could have made more; ordered too much product, could have charged more. Approximately \$500 was made. The fireworks are an annual event and the PTO is looking to run this stand again next year. Karen Sommer and Amy Chibeau deserve thanks for organizing the glow stick event.
- Target gave money as a promotion.
- Liberty Bank gave a kick back to the school from the student banking program.
- A check was given dedicated to the Special Ed room for them to spend.
- There was a \$20 donation from the Milius-Russell Family. The Funke/Lewis family also made such a general donation. We need to thank them. Karen Sommer will add the process for donating money directly to the PTO to her upcoming fundraising letter.
- Looking to put together yearbooks for the fourth graders.
- An organization is interested in donating but would like some kind of recognition for doing this. It was shared that we could make up a wish list of items to donate to "earn" a recognition plaque.

- The PTO currently has approximately \$4000 in it's checking account (taking out \$ that belongs to Green Thumbs Club)
- Last year, the PTO spent 10K overall.
- The carnival went WAY beyond last year's earnings but the year before that, the earning were below the year before. Leslie cautioned that we can't expect 11,000 every year. She also mentioned that, although we are doing very well now financially, only last year we were really tight for money.
- It was mentioned that the ESCU student affairs office has volunteers available for any PTO events.
- The pottery sale at the carnival gave \$250 to Community School of the Arts Scholarship fund.

Motion to accept report: Ron Baker
 Seconded by: Kim O'Keefe
 All in Favor

OTHER:

Margaret Morrison is handling the Campbell's Soup Labels for Education program. She reports we currently have about 2,400 labels that we can now redeem for something. Norma Fisher-Doiron recommended that we have Betsy Parker visit the web site and recommend a physical education item.

Non-specific communication was addressed. It was suggested that there be a rotation of teachers at the PTO meetings . Norma and Monique mentioned that teachers are involved in many committees and this would take teachers away from the committees they are currently supporting. Monique volunteered for the PTO Representative position because she felt she was the logical person as she is both parent and teacher at Southeast. She offered to be better about acting as a liaison between the PTO and the teachers.

Teacher of the Year nominations: It was suggested that there be a "teaser" sent out to have parents thinking in advance about their selection. Norma mentioned this selection does not happen until the spring. It was suggested that the PTO encourage people to recommend who they think deserves it. Norma suggested having parents share their ideas with the TOTY committee. Rachel LeClerc, the Director of Special Education, heads this committee. It was clarified that only one teacher is chosen for the town.

FUNDRAISING REPORT: Karen Sommer

2nd part of winter fundraiser is coming up: Yankee Candles and Butterbraid will start in a couple of weeks. The winter bulbs fundraiser is coming up. Karen clarified that the committee is trying to combine fundraisers to reduce the # of times parents are sent flyers. It was mentioned that many parents have "favorites" they don't want to get rid of.

Sue Charon encouraged sending out a letter saying you don't have to do them all; pick your favorite. Kim O'Keefe will get a letter sample from MMS. Kimberly Christenson suggested to wait until the carnival auction was done to offer a fundraiser to focus energy and \$ on the carnival earnings.

Tag Sale: Kim O'Keefe wants to continue the tag sale as a major fundraiser. This will be its 5th year. She suggested having the Fall Carnival and the Tag Sale cover the budget, and other fundraisers only be held as needed. This year's tag sale will be held the weekend before Memorial Day (May 19th). Last year we made about \$1800, and that is with just three weeks of donations. She advised honing in on the budget now. She is looking into renting a storage shed. It was mentioned that a local storage operation actually donated something for auction and might be a good place to start.

Kim also mentioned that **Big Y** is discontinuing its education point system. Kim has ordered a storage unit for recess supplies with the points earned in the past.

Playground equipment: Kim is having a company look at the swings in order to use money left over in the playscape account to replace the current swing's framework. It will take approximately \$2600 to repair. Kim suggested keeping the current swings we have and adding a bench. It was motioned that the PTO approve giving "not to exceed \$700" to cover the difference from what is left over from the playground fund and the cost of this work. O'Brien and Sons is the company we work with. Julie Brown motioned and it unanimously carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

Edmond happy that we spent time tonight on educational issues, not just fundraising.

Kimberly Christenson mentioned pencil condition in Becky Robichaud's room. Monique will look into making sure Becky gets some new pencils.

The new copy room has PTO file drawers that are marked. The room is shared with other people. This new work space is a shared classroom. Be attentive to not disrupting a student and teacher working around the corner. Clean up your mess when you are in there so we don't lose privileges.

Sue Charron mentioned problems with the busses. She has reported it to the town. She was told she would be called back and hasn't been. She also called the bus company and they were unreceptive. MB4 and bus 16 are having issues. The bus drivers are changing frequently and parents aren't being communicated with. Norma mentioned that everyone is frustrated. The phones at school are ringing off the hook about this. It was mentioned that late busses are leading to poor behavior on the bus because the students are tired, hungry, and bored. Norma's recommendation is that the PTO should write a letter in a positive way offering some kind of a solution. It should be addressed to Gordon Shimmel and Fred Baruzzi should be copied. The letter should go through the Board of Education first. Norma mentioned that there is a shortage of truck and bus drivers'

nation-wide. The PTO should cc the bus company with their letter. We have a contract right now with the company. Norma mentioned nviting Fred Baruzzi to come to a PTO meeting to talk about the bus situation. It was noted that some families are having very good bus service.

Motion to adjourn: Andrea Newton
Motion seconded by: Karen Sommer

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:50 PM
RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY: MONIQUE M. BROWN 10/10/06
NEXT MEETING: November 6, 2006