

Southeast Elementary School
PTO Meeting
October 1, 2012
Minutes

Members in attendance:

Jess Higham, Jana MacDonald, Cyndi Wells, Gwen Sgro, Erin Clark, Jennifer Mott, Jean Johnson, Erin Ballou, Monique Brown, Erin Christopher, Helen Wang, Kelly Brouse, Michele Boskovic, Lena Rossi, Esther Soffer Roberts, Diane Hutton

1. Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.
2. Videos in the classroom will be discussed next month because we weren't prepared to talk about it.
3. **The Southeast Fall Carnival** was a big success. Erin Christopher, Cyndi Wells and Patti Braithwaite did a great job organizing the event.

Things that worked well: smoothies, fire truck (no cost), henna tattoos, utilizing EOS and UCONN volunteers, the layout (with canopies) and tables to eat at.

Possible changes for next year: We may need "point people." Perhaps we could have t-shirts for all of the volunteers. We might utilize a volunteer checklist. Erin would like to change a few of the games. Perhaps we would consider getting a second bouncy house so we have one for the little kids and one for the bigger kids.

The **Silent Auction** was a huge success. One parent expressed a concern that some people did not want to bid because all of the items were bundled together. Perhaps we should keep larger items separate next year? Jess did not feel this impacted our sales. We made about the same amount as we did last year, but the process was much easier on the volunteers. Anyone is welcome to email Jess with any thoughts. She also recommends researching smart phone apps that would allow people to bid at an online auction.

4. **Vice President report** (Jess Higham)

Special thanks to the families who volunteered and donated items to the auction. This couldn't have happened without the help of Ron Kolanowski, Jean Johnson, Marie Hodrinsky, Jana MacDonald, Cyndi Wells, Erin Ballou, Esther Soffer Roberts, Gwen Sgro, Sylvia Dorado, Julie Campbell, Lena Rossi, Amy Dunstan, Anna Cranmer, Karen Molloy, Kimberly Christenson, Julie

Brown, Tia Willour and Celine Demers-Schiffler. The Silent Auction brought in \$6438.00 and we also received \$45 in direct cash donations. The expenses for the auction totaled \$286, which we are hoping to decrease by returning some unneeded cellophane gift basket bags. The total profit on the auction at this point is \$6,197.00. A flyer is coming home this week with a listing of the auction items that were not purchased. Please email me at jjohigham@gmail.com if you would like to place a bid on one of those items. The PTO is still looking for a parent volunteer to organize this event for next year.

Jeannine fundraisers are still coming in. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Ballou at erinballou@charter.net . Orders are due by October 10th.

School Photos went really well this year. The new company we hired, G&B Photography was excellent. They were well staffed on the day of photos and the weather was perfect for outdoor pictures. Many thanks to Patty Braithwaite for organizing this day. Make up day for school photos is October 29th

Upcoming events include, the Election Day Bake Sale to be held at the Buchanan Auditorium on November 6th. Gwen Sgro and Jean Johnson will be organizing this event, please look for a flyer coming home soon and sign up to bake and work at the booth. During the week of school conferences, November 26-28, there will be two PTO sponsored events. Maryann Olson and Silvia Dorado are organizing the UConn Co-op Book fair; they will need volunteers to work during the daytime and nighttime hours. All proceeds from this book fair go directly to the Southeast library. Please consider donating a few hours of your time to this event. Also during this week is the Thanksgiving Pie and Bake Sale. Jana MacDonald will be coordinating this event and she will need volunteers to donate baked goods as well as selling baked goods. This sale usually occurs during pick-up and drop-off times as well as during afternoon and evening conferences. Keep an eye out for flyers on all of these fundraisers. The bake sales are 100% profit for the PTO, so get baking!

We had the opportunity to donate our used kid's clothes to an online site called Thred-Up. That had the potential of earning us 20-40% back per item. One member expressed concern that it was a for-profit company taking away from non-profits. Others commented that they typically sell their used clothes and donate the others (items that Thred-up would likely not take). No one was interested in coordinating this, but there was some interest in organizing a Southeast clothing sale. Lena Rossi said she would organize that.

5. Treasurer's Report (Gwen Sgro)

Gwen provided a print out of the current treasurer's report. We discussed having a visual on the PTO board that presented "money earned" and "money spent." Cyndi, Gwen and Jana will update the board.

6. Secretary's Report (Jana MacDonald)

September's minutes are posted to the PTO board. We will approve them at next month's meeting, along with the October minutes.

7. Principal's report (Norma Fisher-Doiran)

There will be a parent's hour next month regarding the "fill your bucket" program. The school calendar is on the website. Please refer to that for upcoming events. Savory Samples (international potluck) is on October 18th.

8. New business

The PTO sent out surveys to the Southeast community regarding the two-building project (approximately 80 surveys to school staff and approximately 240 surveys to Southeast families). Approximately 40 have been returned and we anticipate more will come in this week.

Parent Network (Senora Hutton) Class directories will be coming out soon. If you chose to be listed, your information will only be shared with your child's class as a means to communicate with others.

Parents are discouraged from sending birthday invitations to be distributed in school. We have a PTO email list that could be made available. Please consider adding your email address to the list.

We would like to hold a Halloween parade on Friday, 10/26 at 5:00 p.m., after running club. Gwen will create a flyer. Cedar Ledge Farm in Mansfield was a suggestion for next year. Children could dress up and they offer hot cider, mazes, slides, nature hikes, etc. Perhaps the PTO could pay for half the admission for each child.

Fall and winter bulbs are going out this week. They will be due back next week.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jana MacDonald, Secretary
Southeast PTO