Southeast Elementary School
PTO Meeting
September 10, 2012
Minutes

Attendees: Jana MacDonald, Amy Dunstan, Curt Vincente, Julie Campbell, Noreen Halbrooks, Christiane Burkhard, Diane Hutton, Jean Johnson, Silvia Dorado, Jess Higham, Monique Brown, Lena Rossi, Erin Christopher, Erin Ballou, Cyndi Wells, Gwen Sgro, Norma Fisher-Doiron, Margherite Belsemo, Patty Braithwaite, Esther Soffer Roberts, Erin Clark

1. **Meeting called to order** at 7:04 p.m.

2. **Welcome & Introductions**

3. **Fred Baruzzi, Superintendent of Schools:**
-There was a town council meeting last Thursday. There will be no referendum on the November 6 ballot. There is a new proposal to build two new schools at the same locations (Vinton & Goodwin) one at a time, instead of at the same time. They believe the cost to tax payers would be more level. They are going to do more research and will come back to the committee by December 31st. There may be a referendum in the spring.
-In the middle of October, parents, students and teachers will have the opportunity to participate in an online survey regarding school climate. Information will be sent out in mid-September.
- The PTO (that's you!) is invited to attend any BOE meeting.

4. **Curt Vicente, Director of Parks & Rec:**
-Jean Bell retired and Mansfield parks & rec have taken over the after school program.
-Duncan Campbell is the new head teacher at Southeast. All questions should be directed to him.
-Bill Callahan is the full time staff person who will oversee the program.
-Rates increased in May, but did not change this fall.
-Drop-in service is still available.
-There is no registration fee this year, but drop-in people are asked to pre-pay.
-People who qualify can receive a reduced rate.

5. **Two schools building project:**
-Suggestion: we could use a "community closet" (storage) for the PTO and afterschool programs.
-Southeast parents are encouraged to write statements & go to town council meetings expressing any concerns about the 2 schools project.
-We will discuss this topic in depth at the next PTO meeting (October 1st). The meeting will

start early, at 6:30. Likely, we will have a BOE member and a town council member present. It was suggested that we contact Bill Ryan, a former southeast parent.
-Erin Clark, Sylvia Dorado, Jana MacDonald, Jess Higham, Cyndi Wells & Lena Rossi will meet to put together information for the meeting (concerns, etc). They will also do their best to get the word out about the meeting.

6. Review of ongoing PTO programs:

-Big Y Educatio: Register at the check-out and the school can receive certain items from Big Y (in the past we've gotten balls for PE, etc).
-Stop n Shop: Go online or call to register. Buy participating items and our school can earn cash.
-Box tops: Collect them from soup labels, cereal boxes, toilet paper, etc. Cut them out and bring them in to the school to earn cash for the school.
-Campbell's soup labels: Cut them out and bring them into school. Last year we bought a bench for the playground with the money earned.

7. PTO fundraisers and events:

-Gardening Program: Jean Johnson will be the PTO liason to the Garden Club. She will work with Lisa Cackowski on this.
-Jeannine fundraiser (wrapping paper, chocolate, cookie dough) coming out soon.
-We will try to include what percentage of the sales goes to Southeast.
- fundraising suggestion: Mabel's Labels (kids labels, we would earn 25%)
-fall bulbs: We would like to do this differently this year. We plan to buy bulbs in bulk, separate them and sell them individually. Any leftover will be planted at the school. Information will be coming out next week.
-Please visit the calendar on the website to find out more information about school events. Volunteer coordinator positions are still available. Please contact Jess Higham if you're interested in helping out.
-We are not certain whether or not we will have a parent's hour each month (before the PTO meetings). Last year they were not well attended.

8. School pictures:

-We are using a new company. (G&B)
-This year's pictures will be taken outdoors.
-Mansfield Middle School also uses them. If you have kids at both schools, you can get a multiple child discount.
-They also do sibling pictures for your kids at Southeast.
-Retakes will be inside in November if you want a different background

9. **Fall Carnival & silent auction:**

-Erin Christopher has found volunteers from UCONN and EO Smith, but we still need more volunteers for both the fall carnival and silent auction.

-Jack Rabbit's will provide the food.
-Gwen suggested that parents can donate individual snacks to be sold (individual pretzels, granola bars, etc)
-Erin is trying to get a fire truck and may include an ispy activity.
-Other activities may include face painting, scavenger hunt & nature walk, bounce house, henna tattoo, games
-Jess needs help putting together baskets (Jess will send out dates)
-Jess still needs help soliciting businesses. Contact her if you would like to help.

10. **Southeast Network**:
- This was established to make sure everyone knows what's going on in the school (especially for new students and their parents and ELL students).
-Uconn interns are also getting involved.
-At the bottom of the Southeast website, you can now choose a language, so anyone can read it.
-October 18th is our Savory Samples international dinner.

11. **Principal's report:**
We had a great beginning to the school year. The opening ceremony, ice cream social & open house were all very successful.

12. Cyndi Wells made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Erin Christopher seconded the motion.

13. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jana MacDonald, Secretary
Southeast PTO