

Draft Southeast PTO Meeting

November 7, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Attending: Michael Kelly, Gwen Sgro, Cyndi Wells, Norma Fisher-Doiron, Silvia Dorado, Esther Soffer Roberts, Margherita Balsamo, Bryony Carter, Maryann Olson, Lena Rossi, Jess Higham, Patty Braithwaite, Maria Gogarten

UCANN (UConn Area Newcomers Network):

Maria Gogarten – began the discussion with a brief history of UCANN, explaining that it started as a spouse's network for coffee, culture discussions, and crafts. Maria told the PTO that at the university she came from they had groups for newcomers and decided to expand the network to not only foreigners but to people who are new to the state.

Maria Gogarten – gave the PTO some examples of groups that are part of UCANN (Knitting Group, Book Club, Dinning Group...) Maria then explained that they post events on the UCANN website. Maria Gogarten explained that members can start up new groups within UCANN. Maria asked to PTO if they know anyone who needs help to please have them contact UCANN.

Q&A:

Cyndi Wells – asked Margherita Balsamo if there are any Southeast parents involved with UCANN

Margherita Balsamo – mentioned that she has meet Southeast parents who are part of UCANN

Southeast Network:

Diane Hutton – began the presentation by explaining that connecting and informing the Southeast Community and helping Southeast parents with questions and concerns are the goals of the Southeast Network. She mentioned that the plan is for the Southeast Network will meet once a month. Diane Hutton told the PTO that the Southeast Network has three contacts Margherita Balsamo, Suzanne Kelly, and herself and mentioned there are over 10 other supporting individuals. She feels that with helping newcomers with questions that PTO meetings will be shortened. Southeast Network plans on creating a class directory with e-mail addresses and phone numbers. This can be used for parents to contact one another to answers questions or can be used to set up play dates. Diane Hutton mentioned that there is an introduction about the Southeast Network in the recent newsletter. Diane Hutton told the PTO that they are looking for volunteers to join the Southeast Network.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – suggested that the Southeast Network should put slides online about different topics and events at Southeast School.

Diane Hutton – will send out surveys to find out what parents are looking for from the Southeast Network.

Margherita Balsamo – mentioned that Southeast Network plans on having one or two parent hours a year

Diane Hutton – explained that after we get results from the surveys, we will set up the first parent hour.

Monique Brown – asked if they thought it would be helpful to have a list of people and the languages they can speak.

Diane Hutton – stated that they already have a list, Margherita knew enough people to cover most languages.

Monique Brown – asked if there would be a website for parents who are too shy to come to meetings.

Margherita Balsamo – thinks that the Southeast Networks should be for of a personal group and it is all about meeting each other.

Principal Report:

Norma Fisher-Doiron – started by mentioning the children really enjoyed the walk to school event and would like to have more often.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – went through the Calendar of Events with the PTO.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – mentioned that Nancy Gifford will be the next parent hour to talk about online safety for parents.

President's Report:

Cyndi Wells – began by suggestions that the PTO should have a cookie swap where the parents and kids do crafts, swap cookies and have hot cocoa. Cyndi Wells mentioned that the Ice Cream Social will be the first Friday in September.

The PTO thought that having a cookie swap as part of the event would cause some parents not to come to the event. The decision was made to have the event with just crafts and hot cocoa December 9th

A member of the PTO asked why we have money set aside for repairs / replacement for the playscape when we probably have insurance that would cover vandalism.

Norma Fisher-Doiron – mentioned that the town owns the playscape even though Southeast PTO purchased half of it. The town is responsible for inspecting and/or fixing the playscape.

Jess Higham – explained that a lot of the parks in the town of Mansfield need repair and the town has no money to do the repairs. She mentioned that she has been asking the town to fix Sunny Acres for a long time and it has still not been fixed.

Cyndi Wells – explained to the PTO that a 42” monitor has been mounted in the parent pick up hall way to display Mansfield children’s artwork. The artwork displayed is from all 4 Mansfield schools (Southeast, Anne Vinton, Goodwin, and Mansfield Middle)

Norma Fisher-Doiron – mentioned that some parents have e-mailed Fred Baruzzi with concerns about the monitor and some parents have really enjoyed the monitor.

A PTO member asked if anyone is going to run a food drive this year.

Cyndi Wells – agreed that we should do a food drive and suggested we get donations during the craft and hot cocoa event.

Jess Higham motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report and **Esther Soffer Roberts** seconded the motion.

Cyndi Wells motioned to accept the November’s meeting minutes and **Jess Higham** seconded the motion.

New Business:

Patty Braithwaite – told the PTO that Southeast School is registered with Stop & Shop and details will be in the December newsletter. Patty then gave Jess Higham the information for the Fedco seed fundraiser.

Ester Soffer Roberts – gave an update on the tea towel fundraiser and explained that due them wanting 33% of the cost up front (\$1,700.00), the school is looking to do something else with the children’s artwork.

8:25 pm the PTO meeting adjourned

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by: Michael Kelly

Next Meeting: January 9, 2012