

Mystic Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2006
7:00 PM – Library

Officers in Attendance: Michele Crowley (co-president), Fran Cabral (co-president), Terri Rathbun (co-president), Colleen Bornstein (secretary)

Staff in Attendance: Sue Dumas, Allison Van Etten

Other Attendees: Lori Calobrisi, Jessie Kam; Bob Williams

1. **Call to Order/Secretary's report:** The minutes were approved from the 13Mar06 meeting.

2. **Treasurer's Report/Cultural Enrichment Balance:** Wendy Eck provided the balance sheet to Michele Crowley who quickly reviewed the figures. At this time it was noted that a large sum was available under cultural enrichment. It was suggested that possibly a staff member could be designated as the cultural enrichment point person. Allison Van Etten suggested that MMS call other schools for suggestions for CE.

Terri Rathbun asked if the PTO could pay for the installation cost of the new sound system. All present agreed to pay the \$398. Wendy Eck will send a check to the installer. Terri also added that in the future MMS may want to add a tuner to the new sound system,

3. **Kimmie Weeks:** Sue Dumas/ Michele Crowley raved about Kimmie Weeks' visit to MMS. Kimmie, a refugee from Liberia, is a child rights activist who heads Youth Action International, a nonprofit organization. The students were very receptive and also shocked by his stories. It was a great experience and MMS will stay involved in his organization, Youth Action International.

4. **Fran Cabral/Skate Night:** Fran discussed skate nights in the fall and suggested October (around Halloween) and March as potential months. Allison Van Etten made a suggestion to sell tickets at the school prior to the skate nights. It was deemed that Fridays are the best nights to hold skate nights.

5. **General Fundraising Discussion:** Michele Crowley initiated an open discussion concerning fundraising. Michele asked why MMS does not participate in the Duck Race. Lori Calobrisi said that MMS had never participated in the past – possibly because DMS participates. Lori suggested that we sell hotdogs at the duck race. Lori had done this in the past and had been hugely successful.

Jessie Kam made a suggestion that it would be great if there were some kind of notice/brochure which explained the fundraisers at MMS. Specifically it would state the % that goes to each child which is applied to the Washington DC trip in 8th grade. Also, explain the difference between PTO fundraisers and Team fundraisers. It was also noted that the office staff should be aware of all the "fundraising facts".

6. **Cartridges for Kids:** Colleen Bornstein spoke about initiating the Cartridges for Kids program at MMS. Colleen and Sharon Dugger currently run the program at DMS. If MMS participates, DMS will receive a bonus of \$100. All gave approval for Colleen to implement the program.

Old Business:

1. **Wellness Day:** Allison Van Etten thanked the PTO for funding David Switchenko, a substance abuse speaker who spoke on Wellness Day to the 8th graders. A fee of \$400 was provided for him. A thank-you letter from David was passed around. He was very pleased with the students and atmosphere of MMS. Allison remarked how all the 8th graders really enjoyed the Wellness day and all participated.

New Business:

1. Allison Van Etten discussed the possibility of the PTO funding new **picnic tables** for the backyard of MMS. The student council wanted to purchase a few but would not have enough for 4 which would be optimal. All present thought it a good idea for the PTO to contribute to the picnic table, Allison would get back to Michele with the specific cost.
2. All discussed the upcoming **town vote** on May 22. Lots of ideas were discussed as to how to get people to vote. Bob Williams suggested writing letters to the local newspapers. Others discussed how in the past a program was in place which allowed for eligible students at the high school to register to vote. A suggestion was made to contact Clare Sartor to see if this program was still in place. Another suggestion was to contact the local nursery schools to post signs. A lot of parents who do not yet have children in the school system are not aware of the town budget vote.
3. **Nominations for 2006/2007 PTO:**
Michele Crowley and Fran Cabral were nominated for co-presidents. Colleen Bornstein was nominated as secretary. Bob Williams was nominated as treasurer. All were voted in as the PTO officers of MMS for 2006/2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.