

**Mystic Middle School PTO Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2007, 7:00 PM – Library**

Officers in Attendance: Michele Crowley (co-president), Colleen Bornstein (secretary) Bob Williams (Treasurer)

Staff in Attendance: Stafford Thomas, Denise Cooley

Other Attendees: Ellie Coffey, Susan Lyons, Jessie Kam,

Call to Order/Secretary's report: The minutes were approved from the 26Apr07 meeting.

Treasurer's Report/Fundraising Discussion:

Bob Williams submitted the treasurer's report. Bob reviewed the fundraisers from 2006/07. The PTO agreed to give each teacher \$200 for school year 2007/08. In 2006/07, \$7700 total was given to the teachers.

It was once again noted that MMS needs to have a pamphlet describing fundraising at MMS. This pamphlet would be especially useful to incoming 5th grades and their parents. A lot of parents do not understand how the fundraisers contribute to the cost of the 8th grade trip. Jessie Kam will forward the spreadsheet to Colleen. **Colleen will work on this project and recruit others to help her.**

It was also noted once again that DMS has a very successful appeal which ran in 2006/2007. DMS became a Non-profit entity. Much discussion was had as to whether MMS should follow in their footsteps. Many feel there is a lot of time and effort that needs to go into becoming and maintaining non-profit status. A chairperson is needed to lead this effort.

New Business:

A new chairperson is needed for the PTO registry now that Jane Connelly's children have moved to the HS.

A general discussion was held on how we can get more parents involved with the PTO. Principal Thomas pointed out that the website is an excellent source of information. Some PTO members present like the idea of a phone call. In any case, we need to dispatch info regarding the needs of the PTO in a more effective way.

Ed Haberek came to the meeting to discuss his fundraising event – a concert featuring Bad Medicine to be held at Stonington High on Sep 26. Ed is allowing each school in the Stonington district a certain amount of tickets. The tickets will be \$20. All proceeds will benefit Stonington Schools. Ed is hoping each school will receive \$1000/\$1200. Thank-you Ed! (Denise Cooley did ask if Security would be present for the concert- YES!)

Principal Thomas discussed 3 topics. The first topic concerned the Basket Raffle which will occur on April 4, 2008. Stafford asked if the PTO would like to donate a basket. This subject was debated in previous years. Most agree that if MMS PTO is sponsoring the event, it is not appropriate to donate a basket.

Principal Thomas also made 2 requests of the PTO. The first was to pay for the popsicles and water to be had at the MMS picnic on Sep. 14. All agreed to have the PTO purchase these items. A discussion was had as to if the PTO has access to water coolers – does MMS have any? It may be worth looking into as water coolers can be reused compared to the environmental impact of plastic water bottles. Jessie Kam agreed to purchase the water. The PTO will reimburse Jessie. The second request involved covering the extra \$.25 for the lunch on the day of the picnic. Instead of charging the students \$2.25 (actual cost), the PTO would pay for the \$.25- this would be a PTO donation of approximately \$100. The PTO agreed to pay no more than \$100.

Denise Cooley (7th grade teacher) would like for the PTO to follow up on the purchase of the laminator and wood blocks. **Principal Stafford will follow up with Emilia Cassata regarding this purchase.**

Denise Cooley also requested the PTO to help cover the expense of 7th grade pizza parties. Each month a pizza party is held in honor of student's whose birthday days are in that month. Denise asked for \$30 month. Michele asked if Denise could submit a written request to the PTO.

Denise also stated at the beginning of the meeting that the SBIT is looking for new members. The SBIT meeting is on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30.

The low attendance level at PTO meetings was discussed. Susan Lyons said she would host morning parent coffee/tea meetings. All agreed this would be helpful.

A discussion was held as to what activities/events of the PTO still need chairpersons. **Denise Cooley said she would type a form up with these opportunities.** Areas where the PTO needs assistance are CO-President, Secretary, Email Chair, Non-Profit Chair, PTO Parent Coffee Chair and Cultural Enrichment Chair.

Jessie Kam did mention that Alissa Morrison would like to help with the PTO but was not able to attend the meeting.

It was decided that it would be helpful to have monthly PTO meetings. One month the meeting would be in the evening (2nd Tuesday) and the next month it will be during the day. The next PTO meeting will be on Tuesday Oct 9 at 7pm. In November, Susan Lyon will host a morning meeting,

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Bornstein, Secretary