

Lancaster Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)



***Serving the
Mary Rowlandson Elementary School
and the Luther Burbank Middle School***



March 10, 2010 Meeting Minutes

I: Call to Order: 6:35 pm

II: **Welcome and Introductions:**

Paula Castner, Ann Fleury, Rita DiStefano-French, Karen Gould, Ann Gradeski, Michelle LaFrance, Sheila Milioto, Susan Munyon, Betty Ogborn, Patrick Perkins, Sean O'Shea, Kas Quinn, Tania Rich, and Carolyn Soto.

III. **Treasurer's Report:** Susan Munyon

Total PTO balance: \$24,900.38

IV. **Funding Requests:**

Lowell Museum (4th Grade) – Sheila Milioto for Jane Giumette

Formal request received for bus costs. **\$576.00 Approved**

Formal request will replace the \$800 tentative amount approved at the February meeting.

Washington Trip (8th Grade) – Patrick Perkins

Scholarship for financial aid requested to help some 8th graders to attend the trip. Total cost of the trip is \$665.00 (all inclusive except extra spending money). Requirements for a student to be eligible for partial funding is only a maximum of 50% of the trip may be funded and only 80% of what they have raised through fundraisers will be granted (ex: raised \$100 only \$80 will be granted). **Amount not to exceed \$1,500 Approved**

Dance Events – Kas Quinn

Daddy/Daughter will be held on April 30th from 6 to 9 in the MRE gym. DJ service will be provided by Ray Richard at a cost of \$400, 4-H to provide flowers and she is still waiting to hear back from Gina Lovoi regarding photos.

Mother/Son is scheduled for May 14th from 6 to 9 in the MRE gym. Looking into DJ service from Avalon Entertainment (www.djavalon.com) at a cost of \$375 to \$400. Need to clarify total cost and revise dates of deposit amounts being requested. 4-H to provide flowers and Gina Lovoi photos. Families will be charged \$5.00/family for each event to

help

defray costs. All checks except flowers are to be made payable to the PTO.

Amount not to exceed \$1,000 approved

V: **New Business/Programs:**

Staff Appreciation – Anne Gradeski

National Teachers Appreciation Week is May 3 – 7. This week works with both MRE & LBM academic schedule. Some ideas discussed were having parents cover the recess for the teachers one day to give them a break, luncheon for teachers (since Friday is a half day have a special luncheon where the staff from each individual schools can sit down and enjoy a lunch together before starting their staff development training. Approximately 160 staff total between both schools. Anne, Pat and Sean to schedule a meeting to work on more formalized plans.

Summer Drama Theater – Paula Castner

Pilot a summer theater program for students within the district communities of Lancaster, Bolton and Stow. The primary objective is to offer an affordable summer course open to students age 8 to 14 (grade 3 through 8th) which will incorporate elements of theater, dance and music. The students would meet Monday through Thursday from 9 to 12. Show performance dates would be Thursday, July 29th and Friday, July 30th. Cost to students would be early registration cost of \$150 per students, with an additional sibling charge of \$50 per sibling. If student signs up after deadline, the charge to increase to \$200 per student with an additional sibling charge of \$75 per sibling. The members approved to continue with this program.

Cookbook and Eco Bags - Rita Distefano-French

Due to the over abundance of product purchased last year the PTO needs to move the product to recoup costs. The PTO has already taken a loss on the school calendars purchased last year due to becoming outdated. Idea to send home notice for a Mother's Day or Easter gift. Cut price of cook books to \$8 for one or \$15 for 2. Will also sell at the upcoming dances and any other events scheduled for the remaining of the school year. Ann Gradeski to check with the NRHS PTA representative to see if interested in some of them.

VI. **Program Updates:**

- ***Barnes & Nobles*** – Paula Castner

Paula contacted Barnes and Noble to see if May 6th is still available. Mr. O'Toole will check with students to see if he can get a group together to perform, Pam Cross will get choral students together and Scott Rossley and a friend will perform a coffeehouse performance. Summer reading lists books to be set-up on tables for parents to purchase. Paula to email Pat what the deadline is to get the list to her to get a number of books on hand. Sheila to email the as needed volunteer list to Paula to try to form a committee from.

- ***Andrew Foster Scholarship*** – Paula Castner

Only one application has been received to date. The deadline is April 12th. Bob Conner was able to get a few sports memorabilia to raffle off. Bob has been out of town but will get the raffle organized to start sales soon. Scholarship funds are not paid to students until after grades from his and her first semester are received. Sometime in January 2011.

- ***Cold Stone Creamery*** - Ann Fleury
Program flyers will be going home with students on April 12th and end April 30th. Students will take orders for pies, small cakes or large cakes and collect money. The customer will receive a receipt voucher which they would take to the Leominster Cold Stone Creamery to pick-up their purchase between May 7th –May 9th, just in time for Mother’s Day. PTO will earn \$3 for each pie sold, \$4 for each small cake sold and \$5 for each large cake sold.

- ***Lip Sync*** - Rita Distefano-French
Lip Sync show starts tomorrow with the 4th and 5th graders performing and Friday the Kindergarten to 3rd grade. Pre-sale ticket purchases are 248 for Thursday night show and 250 for Friday. Ticket sales are down this year as well as the number of acts. PTO will be having a 50/50 raffle each night. Email sent out this morning and 4 volunteers responded to help with the raffle. Final event number to be reported at the April meeting.

- ***Event Coordinators/Board Elections*** – Rita Distefano-French
Coordinators have been contacted to see if they will be staying on next year. To date the following programs are in need of coordinators; Books & Beyond, Banking for America, Family Photos, Green Cash/Recycling Program and After School Program. Board positions are also open and names are currently being taken. Elections to be held during the May PTO monthly meeting. Notice for the Board positions will be in the MRE and LBM March newsletters, PTO monthly meetings, Lip Sync shows and PTO website. Emails have also been sent out a number of times already.

VII. Miscellaneous:

- ***Family Night Idea*** – Anne Gradeski
Halloween Trunk or Treat was a big hit at her last school. Parents decorate their vehicle and children go trick or treating to each car. Best decorated vehicle wins a prize. All in attendance would then move into the school for snack and games.

- Donations made to the PTO to forgo fundraisers. See if parents employers would match a donation made to the PTO. Most parents would rather donate money to the schools then purchase fundraiser products. Parent commented that the fundraising companies make so much money and the quality of their products is low. Walk for Education was a favorite with some parents because 100% of the donations goes to the school and students.

VIII. Next Meeting: Monday, April 12, 2010 MRE cafeteria at 6:30 pm

IX: Adjournment: 7:50 pm