

Terrasat PTA Meeting Minutes 7pm, Tuesday February 3, 2009

The meeting opened at 7:03pm.

Members present: Dianne Rose, Leslie Sogandares, Hanne Mescall, Laurie Hodge, Scott Logan, Traci Waller, Annette Bobby, Ellen Cury, Pam Sipher, Renee Gilanshah (President), Stephanie Randall (Vice-President), Marsha White (Treasurer), Liz Falcone (Secretary)

Apologies: Joan Carter

1. *Renee opened the meeting* and welcomed all present.
2. *Minutes from January 6, 2009* were presented and reviewed. Stephanie Randall moved that they were an accurate record of the meeting, seconded Traci Waller. Agreed.
3. *Matters arising from minutes* – None.
4. Renee expressed thanks to Kathy Somer and the hospitality committee for the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. All agreed it was a great success.
5. *Treasurer's Report* (Marsha White)
 - 5.1. There was no income for the month. We did receive the BoxTops check for \$457.74 but it has not yet been deposited. Expenses for the month were: \$595 for assemblies; \$910 for minigrants; \$77.58 GRACE; \$10.24 for mathsuperstars.
 - 5.2. We had \$8 in bank fees with no more bounced checks. Total expense for the month \$1600.82. The bank balance is \$11,588.27. We have \$127.82 in outstanding checks.
 - 5.3. Memos have been sent to parents with bounced checks requesting them to resubmit.
 - 5.4. Wachovia advised that cash deposits need to be ordered (heads same way up) to assist with counting.
 - 5.5. Dianne Rose asked for an update on the GRACE budget.
 - 5.6. Traci Waller asked for an indication of the Carnival budget.
 - 5.7. Laurie Hodge reported that a check from Innisbrook for \$1682.06 has been received.
6. *Principal's Report* (Ellen Cury)
 - 6.1. Ms Heather Dix, the School Based Technology Specialist, started a Tech Club with 6th Graders. Students are learning a variety of technical skills including setup and maintenance of computers; video filming, production, and editing. Ms Dix was received a SAG award for the work she has done on the school web site.
 - 6.2. Literary Magazine. Student applications to be editors are currently under review. Articles can be submitted by any student to Mrs. Forman
 - 6.3. Report cards are scheduled for Tuesday next week, but there has been some technical difficulties with scanner
 - 6.4. Thank you to the PTA for helping to purchase materials for Annie. An invitation to audition has gone home to members of Chorus. There will be opportunities for students to participate in all facets of the production e.g. Set construction, props, and front of house.
 - 6.5. SOL writing test will be held in first week of March.
 - 6.6. Next Monday there will be a meeting with a rep from Lowes to discuss the implementation of grant awarded last month. Dianne Rose is working on ideas for curriculum materials.
 - 6.7. For school board appreciation week Terrasat will represent cluster 8 at a meeting next Thursday

- evening. Ramsay Miller, a fifth grade student, will represent the south-east area.
- 6.8. Proposed changes for bell schedule. Information is available so parents can make their comments. If the current proposal goes through, Terraset will start at 7:50am next year. The proposal is expected to be at least cost neutral because only switching of bus runs. Common period for Langston Hughes and South Lakes may be resurrected.
 - 6.9. A note will be included on the PTA web site and/or newsletter to invite people to participate in a survey regarding the proposed Bell Schedule.
 - 6.10. The school administration has submitted a check request for Peer Mediator Training for Sue Palatucci. The PTA has no record of approving this funding. Mrs. Cury withdrew the request advising it had been submitted in error.
7. *Formation of Nominating Committee* (Dianne Rose)
 - 7.1. Leslie Sogandares moved that Diane Rose, Laurie Hodge and Renee Gilanshah be appointed as the Nomination Committee. Seconded Marsha White. Agreed unanimously.
 - 7.2. An election for the new board is supposed to occur in May. We need to announce the open positions. Please advise Dianne Rose if interested.
 8. *BoxTops and Campbells Soups Labels Update* (Pam Sipher)
 - 8.1. A check for \$457 was received last month for collections between March-October 2008.
 - 8.2. Next collection ends Feb 20. A collection sheet will be distributed.
 - 8.3. Mrs. Matthews' class won the last two collection awards, so this time first, second and third places will be awarded.
 - 8.4. Participation rate is just over 20%. Participation rate, rather than number collected, is being used to encourage more participation and to simplify the recording process.
 9. *Spring Carnival Planning Update* (Traci Waller)
 - 9.1. The Spring Carnival committee met and decided on including a family fun run. Frank and Annette, the fun run organizers, met and determined to include both 1k and 5k courses. There is interest from the YMCA to sponsor the event in some way. The run was promoted at "Terraset's Got Talent" night.
 - 9.2. Games: new green games, a moon bounce, were discussed. However, insurance issues were flagged around Moon Bounce. Mrs. Cury advised that Moon bounce would have to be "100 percent owned and operated by the PTA." It was stated that the PTA does **not** carry enough insurance for a moon bounce. The committee will continue to consider high-end activities to ensure kids have plenty of fun.
 - 9.3. Scout troops may be interested in assisting with organization.
 - 9.4. Marsha White and Kimberlee Robinson will organize the cake walk.
 - 9.5. There is a plan to include informational tables such as: USGS, YMCA, Scouts, National Wild Life Association, RA, Discovery Creek
 - 9.6. Advertising may need to be broader e.g. through Reston Community Center, other schools, carnival announcements into other school PTA newsletters
 - 9.7. There has been a suggestion to have a school wide poster contest—the winning poster will be used in publicity.
 - 9.8. Other special activities may include a stream restoration tour, planetarium display, tie dyeing t-shirts. All activities would have a fee associated with them.
 - 9.9. Letters to businesses requesting donations for the Silent Auction have been mailed. Positive responses are starting to come in. Request for donations from teachers will be sent this week. Request to Terraset Families will be distributed in early March.
 - 9.10. March 1st Carnival brochures will be going out to parents
 - 9.11. The committee needs clarification on any restrictions on access to the kitchen area. Mrs. Cury believes the kitchen must be managed by a certified FCPS food manager. Details will be confirmed.
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- 9.12. Annette Bobby will be coordinating ticket sales. Marina Tignor will coordinate prizes. Stephanie Randall and Heather Thomas will coordinate raffle baskets.
- 9.13. Discussion held regarding use of the word “raffle.” Need to verify legal implications. May need to be a door prize or donation to school.
- 9.14. Suggested to offer a prize at science fair as both Earth Day Event promotion and fund raiser.
- 9.15. Thought was given to including a re-dedication of the butterfly garden at the Earth Day Event. Concern was expressed that this “promotional opportunity” may get lost in the carnival and should be an event of its own. May need to consider a groundbreaking ceremony to ensure best coverage.
- 9.16. A parent has expressed interest in selling her handmade jewelry for children at the carnival, with 50% of proceeds coming to the PTA. There was general agreement that we should not open the carnival to vendors.
- 10. *GEMS Update* (Scott Logan)
 - 10.1. The first meeting of “Girls Excelling in Math and Science (GEMS)” was held mid January. Scott expressed thanks to Dianne Rose and Tania Nelson for making the first meeting a great success. There were 22 girls in attendance and 5-6 have joined since. Guest presenters have been lined up for February, March and April. Dianne was speaker at the first meeting leading an experient with weight and stresses. The big GEMS conference is on March 8 at Dogwood. Scott is hoping to have a good attendance. GEMS is open to all 5-6 grade girls not just club members. The Dogwood conference is very large and Terraset sometimes outnumbered other larger schools. It is hoped to continue the GEMS club in fall.
- 11. *April Meeting Date* (Renee Gilanshah) – the April meeting date falls in the Spring break. It was agreed the meeting should be moved to March 31st. Members will be advised via the PTA newsletter and the website.
- 12. Other Business
 - 12.1. Laurie Hodge, on behalf of Suzanne White, presented a teacher mini grant. The strings teacher, Ms Essig, has requested \$97 for conference fees. She wishes to attend the National American String Alliance Convention in Atlanata. The convention is only for string teachers and provides a good way to keep up with teaching music and ideas on ways to present strings to future terraset students. Laurie Hodge moved to approve the application, Seconded Scott Logan. Agreed unanimously.
 - 12.2. A Safety Note from Mrs. Cury: Peanut butter products are not being served within the school. Peanut butter products from FCPS and the “365” donation were not on the recall list published for salmonella outbreak.
 - 12.3. After school clubs have started. PTA subsidized 17 students in Basketball and 14 students for Mad Science – \$406. One scholarship was offered. Well over \$2000 in income and 143 kids enrolled.
 - 12.4. Budget cuts will result in a “lean” year next year. It will be important to consider volunteer ideas to retain the standard of services offered in the school. May be worth looking at ideas from other States. There is a possibility that some positios will be cut in the school, however, Mrs. Cury is hopeful that we will keep all our teachers. If one retires or resigns, that position may not be filled. Instructional assistants are under threat.
 - 12.5. (HELP something missing here!) ... Having served on PTA has been 2-3 years. Very supportive...

The meeting closed at 8:12pm.