

Terraset PTA Meeting Minutes

7pm, Tuesday May 5, 2009

Meeting opened 7:06pm

Members Present: Renee Gilanshah (President), Stephanie Randall (Vice-president), Liz Falcone (Secretary), Marsha White (Treasurer), Annette Bobby, Dianne Rose, Ellen Cury, Leslie Sogandares, Pam Sipher, Laurie Hodge, Scott Logan, Kim Lowther,

Apologies: Traci Waller, Heather Thomas

1. *Renee Gilanshah opened the meeting* and welcomed all present.
2. *Minutes from March 31, 2009* were presented and reviewed.
 - 2.1. Liz Falcone noted that Scott Logan was not at the meeting of March 3, 2009 so could not second the motion that minutes were an accurate record of that meeting. Marsha White moved that the minutes of March 3, 2009 were accurate. Seconded Dianne Rose. Agreed.
 - 2.2. Marsha White wishes to verify point 4.2 in March 31, 2009 minutes. The number of bounced checks for the year seems too high at 28. On May 12, 2009 Marsha advised via email the correct number should be eight.
 - 2.3. Ellen Cury moved that, subject to the corrections above, the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded Leslie Sogandares. Agreed.
3. *Matters arising from minutes* – none.
4. *Treasurer's Report* (Marsha White)
 - 4.1. Major receipts for the month were from the carnival and fun run totalling \$4,976.75. The Silent Auction brought in an additional \$3,976.
 - 4.2. Received BoxTops check for \$300
 - 4.3. Big expenses this month were for mini-grants (\$500 for Annie Jr.) and Carnival (\$2507.93)
 - 4.4. Marsha followed up on collecting information about alternative banking services.
 - 4.4.1. She enquired at BB&T, Wachovia and Bank of America.
 - 4.4.1.1. Bank of America has a \$30 monthly maintenance fee which is waived with a minimum balance of \$3000. They allow 150 free transactions with a 45c fee for each transaction over that count. First \$10,000 in cash deposits are free .
 - 4.4.1.2. Wachovia charges 25c for each transaction over 150 (the transaction count includes each complete transaction in addition to a count of each individual check processed and each cash transaction). \$5000 of free cash deposits are allowed, but a transaction fee is charged over that.
 - 4.4.1.3. BB&T have a \$9 maintenance fee with 225 combined transactions. They have a 35c charge per item in excess of that count. The account earns interest.
 - 4.4.2. Following discussion addressed issues including distributing deposits over month boundaries while taking care not to hold checks for too long. It was agreed that Wachovia is costing a lot of money. Further, the temporary checks we are currently using are not being received well. Questions were raised regarding the inconvenience of having to change signatures when the new Board becomes active.
 - 4.4.3. Leslie Sogandares moved that the Terraset PTA change its official bank to BB&T effective May 6, 2009. Seconded Scott Logan. Agreed unanimously.
 - 4.5. Marsha asked how the meeting wished to disperse Fun Run proceeds. Expenses for fun run are likely to

be around \$75 with a gross income of about \$566. It was noted that we advertised that all proceeds from the Fun Run would go to the Mark Waller Family Trust Fund and that this implies nett income. All payments received by May 31st will be duely processed.

5. *Principal's Report* (Ellen Cury)

5.1. "Things are going well!" Mrs. Cury reported that the school is getting ready for SOLs. She invited the meeting to read this month's Terragram to ensure everyone knows what is happening about Swine Flu. She advised that any information going to the community must go directly from superintendant's office. The school has contingency plans in place and have changed the outgoing phone message to remind parents to give specifics about reported illnesses. There have been no incidents. The school web site will be updated to provide a list of activities, by grade level, so parents can find things for kids to do in the event that the school is forced to close. Much of the information on blackBoard will be used. Since some parents do not check BlackBoard, or may have forgotten their login, the school wants to be confident that parents can easily access the informaiton they need. Staff are also putting together packages for families that do not have internet connection. Contingency plans include what to do about SOLS and GRA testing and other mandatory activities should they be impacted. If the school is closed, the days will be made up. The county is being pro-active and wants to be confident the same information is going to every school.

5.2. "Annie is on the way and everyone seems to be involved!" There will be a concession stand during interval at each of the evening shows to assist with funding the show. However, Mrs. Cury emphasised that money should not be an object. Sadly, many School Board and County executives who were invited are not able to attend. Jane Dreyffus Director of Cluster VIII is coming. To date we do not have a response from Superintendent Jack D. Dale, Dr. Richard Moniuszko, Deputy to the division Superintendent, Betsy Goodman, Assistant Superintendent for Cluster VIII, or Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Hunter Mill District. The school hopes they are able to attend, as it is important that they see Terraset in a different light. They need to see that we do projects as well as other schools in the South Lakes Pyramid.

5.3. Mrs. Cury was asked "where are we at with the budget?" She re-stated that we will not get Title I status. There is a chance that Terraset will be identified as a Title I school when considered next year. If we want additional funding, it will need to come from grants. All grants need to be connected to a project within the school. Staff, with PTA support, is currently drafting a submission for a Calendar Math Grant of about \$4000. The school is always ooking for other sources. Every school is funded at exactly the same rate per student. Unfortunately, Terraset does not enjoy the economies of scale that benefit larger schools.

5.4. Mrs. Cury was asked whether she knew when the decison on the Bell Schedule Adjustments is to be made. FCPS has determined to implement more efficient bus routes for the schools. This has resulted in a proposed change to the Bell Schedule which will see Terraset starting 15 minutes later. Everyone on the PTA mailing list was advised and seven people responded to the email. Responses were tabled. Mrs. Cury had anticipated a large response because of an overwhelming reaction about 5 years ago to a survey about start times. However, there was general agreement that the community does not feel so strongly this time. Upper level children are the most likely to be effected, but they do not currently tend to participation in after school programs. The meeting agreed that the PTA should not take a position.

6. *New position for 2009-2010: Volunteer Co-ordination Chair* (Stephanie Randall)

6.1. In mid March, Stephanie attended a meeting at South Lakes HS to discuss the role of volunteers and mentors within schools. She suggested that we would benefit from having a Volunteer Coordinator. She imagines that the coordinator would be responsible for finding volunteers for tutoring programs, identifying external resources and all existing volunteer needs within the school. Stephanie indicated that this position may need to connect with other entities. Heather Thomas is willing to take on the role. Volunteers may come from both in and outside the Terraset community. At a minimum, this position could coordinate fundraiser volunteers.

7. *Carnival Report* (Traci Waller in absentia)

7.1. A report from Traci Waller was tabled

- 7.2. It was pointed out that the report may be inconsistent with the financial report as not all expenses had been accounted for yet.
- 7.3. The rented games were considered great success and should be used again next year. Prices need to be reviewed. Would be good to have a meeting with volunteers in advance of the carnival, however, since most do not volunteer until the day, that may be impossible. We at least need a "Pit Boss". Unfortunately, Mrs. Cury was not kept in the loop about which games would be hired and where they would be positioned. This will be rectified next year.
- 7.4. It was suggested that we should have cotton candy machines.
- 7.5. Terraset now owns a chocolate fountain but needs to be well managed to keep sanitary.
- 7.6. It was agreed that we should retain the Earth Day Theme. The committee will look for ideas on to expand the theme, for example, we might want to have more things outside. It was suggested that we should hand out maps. It was also suggested that we should limit the number of soda bottles that a player could win. The Tree-mendous Treasure Tree was volted a fantastic success. Student involvement was also considered a highlight as it gave them more ownership of the event.
- 7.7. *Teacher Apprciation Week Update* (Kathy Somer in absentia) Very successul.
8. *Box Tops Report* (Pam Sipher)
- 8.1. Received \$300 in April. We have received all the money we will get this year. Payments not received for collections to date will be received during the 2009-2010 school year. Goal for collection is \$625 with approximately \$400 worth counted to date and two collections uncounted, Pam is confident of reaching the goal. A new collection is starting today and is due June 5th.
- 8.2. The collection that just finished saw Miss Matthews's class in first place with 75% participation. The class chose popsicles for their prize. Five classes had more than 30% all getting cupcakse or pospsicles. Pam is hoping that the younger kids will retain their enthusiasm when the in upper grades.
- 8.3. Aimee Minto will work with Corynne Hill to coordinate next year. Pam will train them for a smooth transition.
- 8.4. Congratulations were offered to Pam for great job.
9. *Innisbrook School Supplies* (Laurie Hodge)
- 9.1. The class supplies lists for 2009-2010 are prepared. Lists have been processed by Innisbrook. A small amount (round up to nearest dollar) is added to the price of supplies so PTA gets some return.
10. *Other Business*
- 10.1. The school is expecting a large number of kindergarten registrations. Annie flyer in folder. Kindergarten FAQ in folder. Computers set up for PTA subscription.
- 10.2. \$50-60 petty cash will be required for consession stand at Annie Jr.
- 10.3. An update on Mini-grant funds was requested. Need to ensure all the money is spent. It is believed a mini-grant application for Field Day has been submitted. This application should be considered via email.
- 10.4. Field Day schedule for June 15 and 16. One for upper grades, one for lower grades. Mr Patterson is going to revive that event and it promises to be great. Dianne Rose will be coordinating volunteers. Giving different responsibilities to classroom teachers.
- 10.5. Mrs. Cury would like to have a Terraset Family Night as part of the "welcome back" program next year. She suggested we discuss this at the next meeting. She is wondering whether the PTA could arrange a special assembly as part of the event.
- 10.6. Stephanie Randall called for volunteers to join the bylaws committee. It was agreed the new board should form this committee. Leslie Sogandares offered to be an advisor.

The meeting closed at 8:36pm