

Terraset PTA Meeting Minutes 7pm, Tuesday June 2, 2009

The Meeting opened at 7:10pm

Members Present: Ellen Cury, Traci Waller, Annette Bobby, Stephanie Randall, Pam Sipher, Suzanne White, Heather Thomas, Dianne Rose, Scott Logan, Renee Gilanshah, Marsha White, Liz Falcone

In Attendance: Chris Gohrband

Apologies: Genie Bailey, Kim Lowther, Leslie Sogandares

1. *Stephanie Randall opened the meeting* and welcomed all present
2. *Minutes from May 5, 2009* were presented and reviewed. Suzanne White moved that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded Scott Logan. Agreed
3. *Matters arising from the minutes.* None.
4. *Treasurer's Report* (Marsha White)
 - a. So far net profits for carnival are at \$6,142 including about \$9,000 in receipts (\$4,000 from Silent Auction, \$5,000 from Carnival). There was approximately \$3,000 in expenses.
 - b. Fun Run made \$682 with expenses of about \$73
 - c. Bank papers need to be signed. Agreed that Stephanie, as incoming president should be signatory on account along with current treasurer.
 - d. Marsha White will complete tax return after June 30th to ensure no stragglings issues.
 - e. Fun Run is now closed at \$608.07 net.
5. *Principal's Report:*
 - a. Mrs. Cury expressed thanks to the PTA for its support of *Annie*. She said that everyone who works at Terraset was touched in some way by the performance.
 - b. SOLs are now complete. Some preliminary reports indicate 5th grade has achieved outstanding results.
 - c. End of year activities: First "author celebration" with launch of Tiger Tales. Bettina Forman was staff editor and Heather Dix provided technical support. Otherwise, the work was all completed by the kids. Students helped to select and edit the contents. They aimed for both broad demographic and grade level representation. To be launched on Thursday night at Language Arts and Social Science Night.
 - d. Math Superstar celebration will be held at lunch on Thursday, June 4th.
 - e. Field Day seems to be coming together.
 - f. Kay Morgan has donated a bench to the school, specifically for staff to use on the playground, but it needs to be put together. Diane Rose volunteered to assist.
 - g. There will be an assembly on Thursday too – Medieval Night – for 5th Grade.
 - h. Final numbers for sixth grade party have been determined.
 - i. Mrs. Cury was asked to talk about staffing. There are no vacant positions. Leslie Sogandares and Jayne Sciaroni have been "de-staffed". Still hopeful that this may be reversed.

- j. Gery Cole, who is retiring, will be replaced by Robbie Dodd, an outstanding, experienced teacher. James Rumbard, a special education teacher will be replacing Stacia Collins who is resigning to stay home with her children.
 - k. Only grade close to capacity is second grade, so those classes may be large. However, most others are expected to be good sizes.
 - l. School bell scheduled has been changed to 15 minutes later.
 - m. Mrs Cury sent a letter home about security issue on roof regarding pyramid. Also finding trash on the pyramid. No trespassing signs will be erected to enable school to call police if necessary.
6. *Teacher Mini-Grants*: As advised last meeting, an application from Mr. Patterson was received. His application is to fund Field Day. Considered a good cause as it touches everyone in the school. There has been so separate Field Day line item in the budget for several years. We need to speak to Will Patterson to work out what would be a good budget moving forward. Tracy Waller moved that we support the application. Seconded Annette Bobby. Agreed.
- a. Field Day Volunteers needed. Need about 35 people each day which includes the staff. Currently have about 13 volunteers on Monday and only 9 on Tuesday. Last year the sixth grade kids were very instrumental in running the games. As a last resort Mr. Patterson would use the sixth students, but he would prefer to have them participate. Value of community service has been a focus for sixth graders, so this would be a good opportunity for some of the kids to take on a leadership role.
7. *Sixth Grade Party Report*: Pam Sipher reported that planning is on target for Wednesday, June 17th. A group of parents are coordinating the event. They have been in contact with a DJ. They have a \$350 budget and would like to use \$345 for the DJ who is charging the same amount as last year – a discount from \$395. Renee Waite will receive the contract. DJ has been advised there should be no requests, group dances, and that all music should be appropriate for elementary students. Parents need to be vigilant. Using donations from last year for tips for Outback workers. Asking families for donations and currently have about \$150. It was thought reasonable to ask for \$5 per child.
8. *Reston Citizens Association and Vegetable Garden*: Renee Gilanshah reported an expression of interest from the Reston Citizens Association to establish a vegetable garden. Mrs Cury indicated that the school cannot dedicate teacher time, but will support such a project in principle. We will need to check regulations and identify a suitable place. Could establish a small plot, experiment, and expand as appropriate. A lot a vegetables mature in the summer, so it may not provide timely edible produce. Summer produce could go to a homeless shelter. Dianne Rose reported a project at Olympia Washington ES where the students were so involved and proud of their garden. Had a large variety of things. Huge greenhouse built overtime that really blossomed. Does it need to be considered at budget time? Part of the Lowe's grant can go to a vegetable garden. Mrs Rich could be interested in using the garden in enrichment instruction. Will make contact with Terra Center project leader to asses whether Mrs Rich could help to lead up project. Mrs. Cury said that appropriate and approved activity on the roof will be fine. Scott Logan said that it would be possible to add a worm caste as part of 5th grade curriculum. Ideally the project would be integrated into all parts of the curriculum. Signs in English and Spanish, sculpture garden, etc.
9. *Boy Scouts Pack 32 Charter Presentation*: Chris Gohrband thanked Terraset PTA for chartering Pack 32. The charter says pack 32 has been serving for 29 years. The PTA lends

its signature to the charter indicating to the Scouts that the PTA supports the pack. The PTA parents lead the pack through the application process, so truly the pack is part of the PTA. The pack provides the opportunity for boys to achieve something and have fun interacting with others in positive ways, at each grade level there are crafts and physical skills providing the boys with knowledge of how to take care of themselves as they grow and their skills develop. Do their best, cooperate, be respectful and honest... these values all help them to become better citizens. Dens are groups of boys in the same grade. Strong tiger cub group coming up. They do the Pinewood Derby once a year in which boys design and build their own cars. They have a Fairfax Park family camping opportunity each year. For the first time some kids will be going for a sleep away camp at the local council facility cub market. In grades 4-5 emphasis shifts to independent work. Service projects include butterfly garden, a small group has been involved in the annual Reston clean up, in Fall they have been involved in gathering food for a local food bank – Scouting for Food. It is interesting to note that Pack 32 has been here almost as long as the school has been standing (now 32 years).

10. *Other Business.*

- a. Renee Gilanshah indicated that the PTA *Reflections* program has not been at Terraset for 3-4 years. Mrs. Cury and Mrs. Wehle would like the school to participate. Children have an opportunity to create art in several different media—visual arts, musical composition, photography, choreography, and literature. Need to announce now to give the children an opportunity to prepare. Would be judged at local, then council, then state and finally national level. Could invite community to judge. Great opportunity to promote school too. Renee is willing to chair. Budget outlay is expected to be minimal. Meeting supported the idea.
- b. GRACE Art: Alison Stobie has agreed to be the chair. Program receives great support from teachers and parents.
- c. Scott Logan asked if the PTA could do a book fair in addition to the Fall one. Need to consider how much profit the library makes on a book fair and look at where the community is spending money at that time of year. Scott will follow up and present some research.

11. *Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Board.*

- a. Renee Gilanshah was commended for her efforts and obvious affection for the school. Marsha White was acknowledged for her efforts given she has five children and a full time job. The Board was described as an energetic productive group, its legacy being community connection, which makes a community school. Moved Suzanne White, seconded Traci Waller. Agreed
- b. Welcome to Annette Bobby as new Treasurer and Heather Thomas as incoming vice-president. Both have personal qualities perceived as ideal for their new positions.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm