

Terraset PTA Meeting M I N U T E S

7pm Tuesday October 6, 2009

Meeting opened at 7:05pm.

Members Present: Stephanie Randall (President), Heather Thomas (Vice-President), Annette Bobby (Treasurer), Liz Falcone (Secretary), Amy Smith, Aimee Minto, Scott Logan, Leslie Sogandares, Joan Carter, Suzanne Veter, Traci Waller, Brian Davidson, Laurie Hodge, Renee Gilanshah.

Apologies: Dianne Rose, Alison Stobie, Ellen Cury, Suzanne White, Tracie Gunn.

1. Stephanie Randall opened the meeting and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.
2. *Previous minutes from September 22, 2009* were presented. Annette Bobby moved that they represented an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded Traci Waller. Agreed.
3. *Matters arising from minutes:* Stephanie noted that we are still looking for a Grants Chair.
4. *President's Report:* Stephanie anticipated that most things will be covered in Chairs' reports.
 - 4.1. Terraset PTA will again support the Terraset Spelling Bee. We must apply with Scrips National Spelling Organization. Membership fees are due within the next week. Membership provides us with materials, word lists, documents, and pays the entrance fee for Terraset student who moves forward to the next level. Josie Stanmyre is the point of contact.
 - 4.2. Whole Foods Markets made a donation of a little over \$1,000. Working with Mrs. Cury to determine how to use the funds. Suggest they are used for Reading Response Journals. Will do a press release to include coverage of first activity which will hopefully be related to healthy eating.
5. *Treasurer's Report:* Annette presented a budget report.
 - 5.1. Audit filed.
 - 5.2. State tax exemption documentation still not received.
 - 5.3. Need to close old Wachovia banks account. Renee Gilanshah and Marsha White will need to sign off on closure. Three checks totalling \$55 are outstanding.
 - 5.4. Annette confirmed that the PTA membership dues indicated in our budget should only show monies coming to Terraset PTA.
6. *Principal's Report:* Mrs. Carter reported a successful beginning to the school year.
 - 6.1. Teachers quickly started beginning year assessments.
 - 6.2. A new kindergarten class has been opened under management of Mrs. Furmanski and Mrs. Wineland. The children have adapted well. Classes now 20-21.
 - 6.3. Finished school improvement plan which was due October 1st. It will be presented to staff on the 19th. The focus is the same as the School Board: service to community e.g. Butterfly garden; life skills and level of connectedness to help improve behaviour; academic - math, reading, vocabulary.
 - 6.4. Looking for new FLES teacher. Two candidates are short listed. Substitute for a couple of weeks.

7. *Committee Chair Reports*

- 7.1. *After School Programs* (Leslie Sogandares):
 - 7.1.1. Three contracted programs mad science, ultra sports, flag football. Initially worried that they would not fill, but they have.
 - 7.1.2. PTA generated clubs lego, nature, creative dance will run again in winter.
 - 7.1.3. PTA subsidizes externally provided programs. Kids who miss out this fall get first priority in winter.
 - 7.1.4. Approximately \$1,000 was used for scholarships.
 - 7.1.5. Programs in winter may be different, would be good if parents provide the lead by making suggestions of what to offer. Run with what will fill and what will be interesting to kids.
 - 7.1.6. Girls excelling in math and science GEMS letters went out today. First club meeting Tuesday 20th.
- 7.2. *Assemblies* (Suzanne Veter). Slow start. Will identify blackout dates.
 - 7.2.1. Thinking of values program.
 - 7.2.2. Have we paid a check to CAPS, Capital Area Programs in the School. Need membership to attend showcase.
- 7.3. *Box Tops* (Aimee Minto): first competition finishes October 16th. Highest participation award will continue this year.
- 7.4. *Communications* (Liz Falcone):
 - 7.4.1. Newsletters issued using Constant Contact. Costs defrayed through monthly sponsorship. Items for the newsletter should be sent at two days prior to publication.
 - 7.4.2. The website was updated over the summer to improve maintainability. Also now has a volunteer center and a parent education area.
 - 7.4.3. Things to be distributed via the Tuesday Pack should first be approved by Ellen Cury. Please send a copy to Stephanie so she knows what is going on and a copy to Liz so she can update the website as appropriate. All items to be distributed via Tuesday Pack should be copied and in teachers' mail boxes by Monday.
- 7.5. *Gift Wrap Sales* (Laurie Hodge): as of this evening the total is \$13,026. Netting \$6,500. Mrs Damon's class has over 240 items. Need to discuss whether to continue with Innisbrook. The meeting issued a thank you to Laurie Hodge.
- 7.6. *GRACE Art* (Alison Stobie): Tabled.
- 7.7. *Membership* (Heather Thomas): Currently we have 81 members. Collected \$469 for the technology fund. In three weeks will send out another reminder.
- 7.8. *Reflections Program* (Renee Gilanshah): Renee indicated she was not sure whether there is interest. She was reassured by the meeting that many students are planning to submit something. The program tries to promote individual expression so several ribbons can be awarded for merit. Children who participate will be awarded a ribbon. All entries will go into a drawing for a gift certificate. This is the 40th anniversary of the program, so it is well established and of value. Entry deadline is October 23rd. May include judges comments. Would like to do something to make a hallmark event, but will depend on participation.
- 7.9. *Spirit Wear* (Tracie Gunn): Tabled
- 7.10. *Store Customer Card Registration* (Annette Bobby): Safeway, Giant and Harris Teeter. Last year Terraset got about \$2,000. A reminder will go out to all families to renew.
- 7.11. *Student Directory* (Liz Falcone): Tabled

- 7.12. *Teacher Mini-Grants* (Suzanne White): One application from Mrs. Forman for \$200 has been received. One copy of Ralph Fletcher's *Teaching the Quality of Writing*. Two copies of Barry Lane's *Reviser's Toolbox*. To help teachers in grades 3-6 plan reading and writing lessons. Want set for each upper grade learning center. Of ongoing value that eventually touches each child in the school. Laurie Hodge moved to approve the application. Seconded Sott Logan. Approved.
- 7.13. *Tigers on the Town* (Cassie Sweet): plan 3-4 events Chik-fil-e in November, Potbelly in December, Dominos delivery in January, something in spring. Funds to technology fund.
- 7.14. *Volunteers* (Heather Thomas): We have launched Three for Me. The web site has been updated so that people can make their pledge. Encouraged to look for volunteer opportunities. Submissions from teachers now online. Waiting to see how this works.
- 7.15. *Hospitality*. November 2nd breakfast for teacher work day.
8. *Budget Cuts Discussion*: FLES Program listed for potential elimination as is immersion programs, band and strings, field trips, Assistant Principals and SBTS. There will be a budget discussion at Reston Library on Saturday, October 24th. How can the provision of these services be made more efficient before they are cut? Parents need to go to meetings.
9. *By-laws Review*: Tabled. Revisions will be voted on next meeting. Need a quorum.
10. *Other Business*:
 - 10.1. SLHS Homecoming parade on Oct 30th. Fun for the kids. Dress in school spiritwear or orange. Convene about 4:15 Hunters Woods shopping center outside Ledo's.
 - 10.2. Parent Education: Stephanie would like to re-introduce parent education sessions. She suggested we should vary times and venues to open to as many parents as possible. Could be back-to-back with some other school event. Could use Survey monkey tool to assess interest.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm.

The next meeting will be held **7pm, Tuesday Nov 10th**.