

Terraset PTA Meeting Minutes Tuesday January 6, 2009

The meeting opened at 7:05pm

Members Present: Dianne Rose, Suzanne White, Renee Gilanshah (President), Stephanie Randall (Vice President), Liz Falcone (Secretary), Traci Waller, Pam Sipher

Apologies: Scott Logan, Leslie Sogandares, Kathy Somer, Ellen Cury, Joan Carter

1. *Renee opened the meeting* and welcomed all present.
2. *Minutes from December 2, 2008* were presented and reviewed.
 - 2.1. It was noted that under point 8.2 it was reported that “A check for \$458 was received in January from General Mills.” It should read that “A check for \$458 **will arrive** in January from General Mills.”
 - 2.2. Suzanne White moved to accept the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the correction noted above. Seconded Traci Waller. Accepted
3. *Matters arising from minutes.*
 - 3.1. At the previous meeting it was agreed to post the letter confirming the Terraset PTA 501(c)(3) status on the website. This did not happen as the copy available was not of adequate quality to digitize and upload. However, on further discussion it was determined that the letter should not be posted as it includes the EIN on record. A statement indicating the letter is available from the secretary will be included instead. Copies will also be made available in the PTA files held in the school front office.
 - 3.2. Further to the formation of a Gems club, the first GEMS meeting is planned for Jan 13th.
4. *Financial Report* – in *Marsha’s* absence, no financial report was received.
5. *Principal’s Report* – in Mrs. Cury’s absence, the following report was tabled.
 - 5.1. Happy New Year to everyone! We are excited at what 2009 will bring in terms of the learning and growth of all of our students.
 - 5.2. If you get a chance, watch Insight on Apple 21 as Terraset’s Reading Together Program is featured in a video segment. Bettina Foreman, the school’s reading specialist is interviewed by Betsy Goodman.
 - 5.3. Ms. Golden is getting ready for the annual talent show. This scheduled for Jan 29th. Auditions are being held this week.
 - 5.4. This Thursday is the 2nd grade Mexico Night.
 - 5.5. Also this Thursday, Dr. Dale presents his budget to the school board. Parents and community members might be interested in watching.
 - 5.6. All NNAT and CogAt test results were mailed home before the winter break. If any one has any questions regarding these tests, please contact Ms. Carter.

6. *Teacher Mini-Grant Application* (Suzanne White)
 - 6.1. An application for an iPod Docking station was received from Mr. Will Patterson. There is currently no sound system in the gym and one is required, particularly for dance content of PE curriculum. This would benefit the whole school. Unanimously supported
 - 6.2. An application for \$800 for 4th grade fieldtrip to Jamestown was received from Ms Stevens and Ms Bentley. This is an annual fieldtrip which provides students an opportunity to get a real-world perspective of the regions historical beginnings. The 4th grade teachers are seeking this grant to underwrite the Target Grant application for the same purpose. The price of buses has increased over the past 12 months and the teachers would like to keep costs below \$45 per person. Various options for organizing transport were discussed. Traci Waller moved that PTA underwrite the field trip to a maximum of \$800 in the event that the Target grant does not come through. Seconded Stephanie Randall. Approved.
7. *Spring Carnival Planning Update* (Traci Waller)
 - 7.1. The planning meeting has been postponed to Tuesday 1/13/09, 6:30pm. Planning meeting will be a brain storm.
 - 7.2. Liz to send summary of known volunteers to Traci Waller so they can be personally invited.
 - 7.3. Frank Sogandares has offered to chair Fun Run committee.
 - 7.3.1. Stephanie in contact with Potomac River Running Store to seek assistance.
 - 7.3.2. Will approach Reston Runners to promote the fun run amongst their members.
 - 7.3.3. Contact Washington Running Report.
 - 7.4. Contact RA Communications Director to seek support for the Carnival.
 - 7.5. Contact Bryan Nickleson of RA to consider mini plant sale.
 - 7.6. Plan to have a recycling depot.
8. *Other Business*
 - 8.1. Terraset PTA has been advised that their application for a Lowe's Tool Box for Education Grant has been successful. We have been awarded \$4300 for a Butterfly Garden Revitalization Project.
 - 8.2. Winter after school program has been announced. Activities include Lego club, Nature club, Basketball for all grades, Creative Dance, and Mad Science. Mad Science and Basketball are the only clubs that will require a subsidy from PTA.
 - 8.3. The PTA usually organizes a teacher appreciation event during the teacher work days January 26 and 27th. It was recommended that we should prepare breakfast for Monday 26th. A Hot chocolate bar was suggested. Bar could be wheeled to teachers's rooms. May be able to get Starbucks to donate. Offer toppings and flavorings.
 - 8.4. An email from a prospective kindergarten family was received. Interested in how to get information about the school. It was agreed that we need to publicise Kindergarten orientation dates.
 - 8.5. The Grants Committee is considering applying for a National Council of Teachers Association \$4000 grant for k-5 teacher inservice education in mathematics.
 - 8.6. There was a brief discussion on in-school activities, and it was generally agreed that there is a lot of wonderful "stuff" going on that the parents do not know about. Many of these activities are announced via WTER, but this information often does not reach home, particularly to families of lower grade students. An effort will be made to capture and publicise this information via PTA channels
 - 8.7. It was agreed that there should be a winter PTA membership drive.
9. The meeting closed at 8:15p.m.