

Chickering PTO Executive Board Meeting October 15th, 2010

The Dover PTO Executive Board met at the Chickering School beginning at 9:00 am on Friday, October 15th, 2010. In attendance were Anne Nolen, Megan Field, Barbara Dawley, Missy Gramer, Suzanne Nystrom, Amy Caffrey, Siobhan Doherty, Kristin Brophy, Jody Shue, Mary Yanke, Betsy Ryan, Beth Webb and Pam LoDato. Pam LoDato, Secretary recorded the minutes.

Approval of the Minutes

The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the September 17th, 2010 Executive Board meeting. Ms. Anne Nolen, Co-president, asked for any corrections to the minutes and none were offered. Ms. Betsy Ryan proposed a motion to approval the minutes.

VOTE:

To approve the September 17th, 2010 Dover PTO Executive Board meeting minutes, as submitted.

The motion was seconded and accepted unanimously by the board.

Co-Presidents' Report

Ms. Megan Field reported that the mosaic mural, done by Mr. Josh Winer, has been largely completed and the feedback from the community has been very positive. The dedication will take place in early November.

Ms. Anne Nolen said that the attendance numbers for the Night at the Runway on October 22nd look good and the event should easily exceed the break even number of 150 guests. RSVPs for the new family reception from 6:30-7:00 have been strong. Since this event is primarily for community building, there will be just brief formal comments.

The fashion show should be entertaining with 10 men and 10 women modeling clothes. There will be Dover 02030 t-shirts and hats for sale and a very limited number of other vendors selling fashion items. The PTO will get a portion of these proceeds. The event will also have a cigar rolling and scotch bar for the men. There will be heavy hor d'oeuvres, cash bar and music with a DJ.

Ms. Amy Caffrey reported that the key volunteers are in place for the party but a few more are needed. She will reach out to board members to fill spots via e-mail. Ms. Megan Field has extended invitations to senior staff members and their spouses to come to the party. Dr. Nugent is planning on attending.

Ms. Anne Nolen circulated an updated PTO communication policy. The overall goal is to cut down on paper. The plan is to use the room parents to send out announcements via e-mail. There was concern about overwhelming the room parents with e-mail requests. The Co-presidents will approve messages and monitor the number. Ms. Betsy Ryan said the the Middle School uses a form of push communications via e-mail and suggested that Chickering consider such a system. There was discussion about the options of independent newsletter services for the PTO in the future. Ms. Nolen reminded the board that October 29th is the deadline for submitting material for the November PTO newsletter to Ms. Shue.

Vice Presidents' Report

Ms. Missy Gramer said the October teacher appreciation lunch, coordinated by the 5th grade room parents, was a success. The home made food was appreciated and the new model worked. Next month the 4th grade parents will coordinate the food. The teacher grant process begins soon and efforts are being made to market the program better. Dr. Nugent has agreed to discuss the grants at the next teacher meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Barbara Dawley announced that since the last meeting, the directory ad sales have come in ahead of budget and there will likely be \$8,200 in revenues after expenses from the student directory. Ms. LoDato commended the Directory Committee which started the advertising program just a few years ago and has increased the number of ads each year. The directories were distributed via backpack on October 12th.

Dr. Reinemann has spent the \$5,000 in the not-for profit book grant from last year's budget. Ms. Dawley has been checking the curriculum enrichment expenses against budget, as costs can sometimes vary versus the plan. The parents' committee for the fifth grade year end celebration has asked for a \$200 increase in their PTO budget. This would increase the overall budget from \$1,000 to \$1,200. This is in line with past years. Ms. Dawley proposed a motion to approval the \$200 budget increase.

VOTE:

To approve an increase of \$200 for the budget of the fifth grade year end celebration committee.

The motion was seconded and accepted unanimously by the board.

Fundraising Report

Ms. Suzanne Nystrom reported that on November 18th, a book fair is being organized at the Framingham/Natick Barnes & Nobles. Dr. Nugent will do a book reading. Chickering will get 10% of the proceeds from book purchases. This is a new way to do a book fair and the PTO will see how it works. People can e-mail a link with the

fundraising code to friends and family as well. There will also be the Books From the Heart program in February.

Planning is underway for the 2010-11 check writing campaign. There will be three letters. The second and third letters will target the parents who did not respond to the earlier letters. The later letters may go via regular mail so teachers will not know who has not given money. The committee is exploring the use of Pay Pal and a button on the PTO web page for contributions. There is a \$2.50 charge for this form of payment which would be disclosed to the parents. This online system could also provide a data base for parents to seamlessly provide donation information, if they have a company matching program.

The spring fundraising event is still be formulated. It will not be rolled into an end of school celebration. One suggestion was to bring back the Wizards. Ms. Caffrey is starting to think about the auction for next year as it is important to get the key volunteers in place by the end of this school year. One idea is to do more direct fundraising around a specific need, such as improving the playground. At the same time, money must also be raised for the PTO's ongoing CE programs and teacher grants.

Volunteer Report

Ms. Siobhan Doherty said that there is a need for more kindergarten parents for the library hours. Ms. Karen Baptista has done a great job with purchasing the new playground balls and storage locker.

Curriculum Enrichment (CE) Report

Ms. Beth Webb said that she and Ms. Mary Yanke recently attending the West Suburban Creative Arts meeting which had information on many potential CE programs. The CSI program will be replaced as it was very technical for the 5th graders. Ms. Suzy Kline will be doing a two day author visit to the third grade. The first graders had successful Audubon walks. The Japanese Drummers will be coming for a school wide event on November 16th. There are a few spring programs to be finalized. The programs are on budget.

Community Report

Ms. Kristin Brophy reported that the community service committee will be rolling out a candy buy back program right after Halloween. The candy will be sent to soldiers overseas. This is in conjunction with a Wellesley dentist office. There will also be a thanksgiving food drive for a local food pantry. Efforts will be made to help Dover families in need. Ms. Field spoke of the importance of getting the children directly involved in the service programs and for pictures to be shared with the local press. These efforts could also be highlighted at the community shares with progress visually charted. Ms. Ryan and Ms. Nystrom spoke of efforts to have children donate school snacks for children in need.

SPAN Dover/Sherborn Presentation

Ms. Joanna Brach and Ms. Mimi Krier, co-chairs of the Substance Prevention & Awareness Network Dover-Sherborn (SPAN-DS), came to present information about their programs. Currently SPAN-DS works with middle and high school students and parents. The network is a coalition of parents, school administrators, police and clergy from the two towns. Research shows that the message of substance prevention needs to start even before middle school. A good model is the anti-smoking campaigns. There is evidence that the earlier kids start drinking and using drugs, the higher the percentage of abuse later. One goal is to delay the age of experimentation. There is a real concern about binge drinking. Marijuana use is also an issue, particularly with the recent changes in state laws decriminalizing the penalties for having under an ounce to a \$100 fine.

SPAN-DS sponsors educational programs on topics such as the adolescent brain development and the effects of drugs and alcohol, illegal drug activity in the area and the social hosting laws. The network wants to help parents with strategies for talking to their children. The group is also trying to add related programs to the middle and high school curriculum. Good resources can be found at teensafe.org and span-ds.org.

Pine Hill has a DARE program in the fifth grade which has a monthly program with a police officer to build relationships with the kids. There is also an annual essay contest. Dover does not have a DARE educated police officer that works during school hours. There is hope that this will change in the future. The network would like to have a program at Chickering and have parents be made aware of SPAN-DS's community educational programs.

Other PTO Business

The next PTO Executive Board meeting is on Friday, November 19th at Chickering starting at 9:00 am.