

Chickering PTO Executive Board Meeting December 17th, 2010

The Dover PTO Executive Board met at the Chickering School beginning at 9:00 am on Friday, December 17th, 2010. In attendance were Megan Field, Anne Nolen, Missy Gramer, Suzanne Nystrom, Siobhan Doherty, Kristin Brophy, Mary Yanke, Gina Doyle, Jody Shue 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 November 19th, 2010 Executive Board meeting. Ms. Anne Nolen, Co-President, asked for any corrections to the minutes. As there were none, a motion for approval of the minutes was proposed:

VOTE:

To approve the November 19th, 2010 Dover PTO Executive Board meeting minutes, as submitted.

The motion was seconded and approved by all of the board members present.

Co-Presidents' Report

Ms. Anne Nolan thanked all of the volunteers for the great first part of the school year. The PTO has started the check writing campaign. The spring PTO event may be combined with art night. The Wizards and Books from the Heart will also happen in the second half of the year.

Vice Presidents' Report

Ms. Gina Doyle reported that the December teacher appreciation event was a candy bar in the teacher's lounge around the conference days. Feedback was very positive. In January, the third grade parents will host a taco bar.

The teacher grant requests are in for the \$5,000 in PTO annual grant pool. Requests have been received for a total of \$13,660. This is significantly more than in past years so the increased outreach efforts were successful. Many of the grants were directly linked to the curriculum. Requests were made for technology items such as ipods which can record voices, books, black jack chairs, music program supplements and braille books. Decisions will be made at the January PTO meeting. Items that are not funded with the grant money can be funded at a later time.

Curriculum Enrichment Report

Ms. Mary Yanke reported that the Wampanoag Indians completed their visits to the school. Ted Scheu, "the poetry guy" was again well received by the fourth grade classes. The PTO made \$150 from the proceeds of selling his books to students. Thought is being given to sharing an author's visit with more than one grade next year.

Community Report

Ms. Kristin Brophy said the mitten and hat collection did not fare as well as the earlier community drives. There were a couple of different community efforts underway by other groups that made messaging more difficult. Ms. Brophy and Ms. Yanke will work with the 5th graders to choose a community service project to do with the PTO in the spring.

Next in the PTO speaker series will be a talk on fitness and nutrition with a personal chef and a personal trainer in late January. Upcoming topics will include kids, screen time and consumerism in March (co-sponsored with the DMA). Ms. Field suggested a screening of the film **Race to Nowhere** with a discussion afterwards.

Ms. Brophy made the suggestion that the PTO have a program for parent volunteers to help the teachers make copies and do other administrative tasks. This could free the teacher's time to be in the classroom. Ms. Gramer said this is done in other schools.

Communication Report

Ms. Jody Shue reviewed the procedures for web posting. The next newsletter deadline is early January.

Fundraising Report

Ms. Suzanne Nystrom reported that the 2010-11 check writing campaign is underway. The initial letter went out via backpack and concentrated on the curriculum enrichment programs. A second letter will go out in January via the mail and cover what the PTO gives to the teachers to spend on their classrooms. The committee is putting up a thermometer display in the lobby to show how the campaign is going. At this early date, there is about 10% participation and \$8,000 has been raised towards the \$35,000 goal.

Ms. Jody Shue suggested using Constant Contact to reach parents via e-mail with a more professional look. This would make the messages more effective than the current method of forwarding messages thru the room parents. Ms. Shue and Ms. Nystrom will work on this for January.

The PTO did receive a check for \$500 from Barnes & Nobles for the November book fair. Board members gave the feedback that buying online was very difficult. There were positive comments to the book fair that was done in the Chickering lobby in 2009.

Other PTO Business

The next PTO Executive Board meeting is on Friday, January 21st at Chickering following the general PTO meeting.