

Dover Elementary PTO

Minutes of a General Board Meeting on September 24, 2007

A General Meeting of the Dover Elementary PTO was held at Chickering Elementary School, commencing at 6:15 p.m. on Monday, September 24, 2007. Ms. White, the President, chaired the Meeting and Ms. Rinaldi, the Secretary, recorded the minutes.

President's Report

Ms. White welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She began the meeting by describing the PTO mission as (1) enabling communications between school and families, (2) providing volunteers for school/classrooms, and (3) raising money for Chickering projects. Ms. White then outlined the various ways the PTO tries to fulfill this mission. Curriculum Enrichment (53% of the PTO budget), effective communication (2-way), teacher support, volunteer services, and community projects are several things that contribute to the overall PTO effort. She then updated the audience on the 2007-2008 PTO initiatives and fundraising efforts. Further detail on these items and the 2008 budget will be posted in her presentation on the website.

Ms. White then introduced Chickering's principal, Mr. Kirk Downing.

Principal's Report

Mr. Downing thanked everyone for attending. He outlined the three major initiatives that Chickering is undertaking this year.

1. Everyday Math – This is Chickering's third year working with the Everyday Math program. This program integrates real-life problem solving with various math principles by teaching them in a spiraling manner, revisiting concepts many times throughout a student's career in the K-5 school.
2. ELA: English Language Arts – This is Chickering's first year working with Tufts University to implement a Balanced Literacy System. This system will enable all students to learn to read and write effectively, allowing each student to work at an individual level that is

challenging, but not frustrating. Mr. Downing cited that 90% of what children read should be relatively easy for them, building self confidence and an appreciation for reading.

3. PLC's: Professional Learning Communities – Mr. Downing is implementing PLC's as “the way we do business” at Chickering. PLC's are groups of administrators and school staff who are united in their commitment to student learning. They share a vision, work and learn collaboratively, visit and review other classrooms, and participate in decision making. The benefits to the staff and students include a reduced isolation of teachers, better informed teachers, and academic gains for students.

Mr. Downing then thanked the PTO and their help in reaching our goals as a school.

Ms. White concluded the meeting by offering the audience several ways to help the PTO achieve its goals. Through communication, volunteering, and participating, we can find a way to help that works for everyone. She then thanked all those present for attending, and the meeting was adjourned.

Laura Rinaldi