

Cedar Hill PTO
Minutes from January 17, 2008 General Meeting

I. Call to Order and approval of Minutes of 11/14/07 General Meeting. Dana Hughes moved to approve; Elaine Edge seconded. Motion approved.

II. Officer/Committee Reports

Co-Presidents - Elaine Edge and Laura Page

- Scoop Email - the Scoop began to be distributed via email in January. This change has been positively received, especially with the interactive links.
- Maureen Kanka Presentation – the Liberty Corner PTO is heading up a free presentation by Maureen Kanka (of Megan’s Law) on March 26 at 7:30 pm at WAMS entitled “Keeping Your Child Safe.”
- BOE Update - the Verizon proposal for a cell tower at WAMS was cancelled due to opposition from the town.
- Language Arts – the parents and Board discussed concerns over the grammar, spelling, and handwriting programs in Bernards Township.

1st Vice President – Meetings - Karen Lanigan

- Box Tops – A contest has begun in the classrooms and will run through February 15. The winning class will celebrate with a pizza party.

2nd Vice President – Fundraising - Danielle Balseiro

- Gift Wrap Sales – we have the opportunity to order gift wrap online all year round, we made \$1,100 from internet orders.
- Benefit Update - Danielle reviewed the timetable for the evening of the Benefit on March 1 – the raffle for the TV, the silent auction and the class baskets were mentioned. Friday, February 8 will be the day to wrap baskets at Danielle’s house. More information will be advertised in the Scoop. Kim Conyers displayed the beautiful handmade items that will be auctioned at the Benefit. They are:
 - Kindergarten – painted bag
 - 1st grade – checker and backgammon board, the pieces display the childrens’ faces
 - 2nd grade – blanket with hand prints
 - 3rd & 4th grades– holiday plaques
 - 5th grade – blanket with hand prints
- Market Day - has raised almost \$1000. Brenda Miller asked for volunteers to unload the food, orders are due by noon next Thursday.

3rd Vice President – Newsletter - Dana Hughes

- Scoop deadline - the new deadline for the online Scoop is **Wednesday** for Friday’s publication. Dana has asked those who are submitting entries to send them to Dana’s personal email address: **danahughes@optonline.net**.

Treasurer – Donna Conti

- Sweetheart’s Dance - coming up on February 15, need volunteers for set up and clean up.

Secretary – Jeanne Finn

- Mother Son Event – scheduled for April 4. The plans for the evening will include a scavenger hunt and the entertainer, Steve Max.

Trustee – Laura Begg

- Cultural Arts - Thomas Edison assembly is scheduled for K-5 students on Friday, January 18.
- Science Day – scheduled for April 1 & 2 for grades K-5.
- Kindergarten Identity Program – permission slips went out the Kindergarteners, the program will be on February 15.
- Wizards of Words – Author Robert Blake will visit grades K-2. His books contain beautiful stories and illustrations of Alaskan sled dogs. He will sign over 120 book orders for the students.
- Teacher Appreciation – scheduled for May 22 and will be a Rustling Rose Saloon/Western theme.
- Spirit Sportswear - tie dye tee shirts will be ordered and used for field trips and a spirit day in the spring.
- Valentine’s Breakfast – scheduled for the teachers and staff on February 14, need volunteers to donate cut fruit.

Trustee – Debbie Moldovan

- 3rd grade Writers in the School – Jill Kastner will visit on February 12, 13 & 15.
- 4th grade Writers in the School – James Gelsey, the writer of Scooby Doo, will visit on January 22, 23 & 24. Book orders are being done through scholastic and we will receive a huge discount.
- 5th grade Writers in the School – Poet Elizabeth Rollins will visit on February 4-6 & 8 and Poet BJ Ward will come for the assembly on February 8.
- Science Fair – scheduled on March 8 and will show experiments and demonstrations. Timing for next year was discussed. It was suggested that we request to Mrs. Scully that the deadline for participation be changed to January instead of December.

III. New Business - None

IV. Old Business - None

V. Today’s Meeting Speaker

- Joe Mollica – welcomed us to a new year, discussed some of the pressures that are impacting students and the expectations place on the teachers. As the standards have gone up, the number of children who struggle responding to this is increasing, also. It is a more rigorous world, and systems are needed to provide support for the students. Bullying has increased because children feel the need to control because they can’t find control in other areas. The job of teaching has become harder than ever before. Teachers are expected to provide differentiation of instruction which entails personalizing the instruction more than ever before. Joe assured the teachers of his ongoing support and offered help wherever necessary.

VI. Adjournment

Edge adjourned the meeting with a motion by Karen Lanigan with a second by Debbie Moldovan.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeanne Finn, Secretary