

Cedar Hill PTO  
Minutes from September 18, 2008

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Officer /Committee Reports**

**Co- Presidents: Elaine Edge and Laura Page**

- Edge welcomed everyone and introduced the 2008-09 PTO Board
- Directory will be going to print this Friday
- T- Shirts for field trips were donated by the PTO to the classrooms for field trip use
- The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is formed to discuss issues with gym, recess, carline issues, and buses. Our PAC Representatives for Cedar Hill are as follows:

Doreen Beim, K  
Mary Younberg, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Luann Lyons, 2nd  
Elaine Nelson,3rd  
Kathy Bassiacos, 4th  
Julie Keating, 5th

Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> is the next PAC meeting.

- New directional signs are all around the school. More signs are on the way. Thank you to Gail Shimoun for doing this for Cedar Hill
- Grant money is available to expand/enhance the playground. PTO board needs to investigate this further.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Jeanne Finn**

- Sandwich Board is available to advertise activities.
- Meeting dates will be available in the Scoop. We will have 5 general PTO meetings each year starting with September, October, January, evening meeting in March, and finally a wrap up meeting in May
- Family Fun Pizza Night is scheduled for Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>
- Doreen Beim reported that PTO dues collection is going smoothly. Most envelopes have already been returned. Class parent selection was a random selection by putting names in a basket and choosing 2. Names were put in the basket by doing the following: People who wanted to be a class parent and never had been, people who have been a class parent and no one else wanted to do the job. Emails only went out to those who were selected.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Christina Eheret**

- Theme this school year is variety to offer a fundraiser for everyone. The list of fundraisers will be published early so that you can choose your fundraiser that you want

to participate in. Themes range from Book Fair, Barnes and Noble Book Night, Market Day, Bulb Sales, Gift Wrap, and Kids Art.

-Barbara Conca reported that sign ups for helping and setting up for the book fair are going well. Fifth graders can purchase their own books this year. You can send \$ in with your child on Friday.

-Brenda Miller is chairing Market Day orders. All orders are due today, September 18<sup>th</sup> by noon. Pick up is next Wed from 3:45-4:45. [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com) is the website to visit to place orders.

-Kids Art is chaired by Danielle Balseiro. Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> this will start due back by Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. The art teacher will be allowing the children to work on this in art class.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President: Dana Hughes**

-Scoop notices are due to Dana by 5 p.m. on Wednesdays at [Danahughes@optonline.net](mailto:Danahughes@optonline.net)

### **Treasurer: Candy Pescatore**

-No report

### **Secretary: Sarah Herndon**

-Herndon thanked the committee chairs for volunteering their time. Folders were distributed to committee chairs who still did not have their committee folder. She announced that all forms are available on line through their designated liaison.

### **Trustee: Laura Begg**

-Mileage Club has been suspended at this time

-Liz Bagnato reported that Scott Cannon, a mime, will be the first cultural arts assembly

### **Trustee: Joyce Tulenko-No report**

### **III. New Business-None**

### **IV. Old Business-None**

### **V. Meeting Speaker: Joe Mollica**

-Mr. Mollica thanked the group for all contributions to Cedar Hill. He then opened the floor to parents to address concerns:

-**Math assessment has changed, how and why?** 90% of the material will on a math test will be on the study guide and emphasized as Part A on a test. 10% will not be on the study guide and will be part B on an exam. Part A is designed for the students to be able to master. Part B is designed to see how many of the students master a concept without the emphasis...only introduction.

-**Lisa Winter** reported that parents can apply to vote absentee and the state will send you a ballot. Once you apply you must vote. The push for this is due to the fact that the vote will be held during a time when school is not in session

-**Fifth grade suggestion:** Can the 5<sup>th</sup> graders switch classes in order to prepare for middle school? As a philosophical approach the town has kept the 5<sup>th</sup> grade contained to 1 teacher for the children. Elementary is a generalist environment. Joe wants strong generalists to meet the social emotional and academic needs of the students.

-**NJASK LA standards:** There is a greater level of rigor in LA. Mollica wants us to compare how are elementary schools are doing compared to other areas as the best way to identify how we are doing. Programs are in place for students who excel on the NJASK as well as students who are not at the proficient level. CH wants to focus on the students in the middle. These kids typically fall right below advance proficient scoring 225-245. The goal is to push them over the edge to the advance proficient category.

-**Food Allergy Table:** There is a peanut free rectangular table for students with peanut allergies. Students who have a peanut free lunch may sit with the affected students. The aides are responsible for checking invited friends lunches for peanuts to ensure no peanuts are present.

-**What are the criteria for the Continental Math Program?** Records are being reviewed to determine this. Students demonstrating high scores with high talent will qualify for this program.

-**Will we have a similar program for students who excel in LA?** There is not a formal program but enrichment will be made available to those students who excel in LA.

- **What is the purpose of parent teacher conferences in Sept?** This is an opportunity for the parents to share any thoughts etc.. about your child in order to assist the teacher in understanding each student in his/her class. Allows parents to formally sit and visit with the teacher early in the year to form a relationship/partnership with each other.

-**Can the teachers include more information about each student in the report cards?** Parents can always email/call the teacher and/or principal to ask questions regarding your student's progress/difficulties.

-**What scoreboards are important when evaluating our schools in Bernards Township?** CH wants happy children, happy parents AND good test scores. The high NJASK score is great but it is more important to see a well rounded, educated, happy child/family.

## **VI. Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Herndon, Secretary