

**Thoreau Elementary School
PTO General Meeting – Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2010

In attendance:

Mark Allen, Connie Roderick, Kim Zinske, Susan Willas, Christy Ehlert, Robin Gray, Erin Weiss, Wendy Brand, Leah Sandholm, Laura Glazer, Roman Hernandez, Alexis Brown, Blandine Fontaine, Todd Castilow (Treasurer), Louisa Medaris (President), Sherri Stroebel (Vice-president), Kate Huntington (Co-fundraising), Aphra Mednick (Co-secretary), Elizabeth Fritz (Principal)

1) Announcements by Principal Liz Fritz:

a. H1N1 Clinics:

- Immunization clinic this Friday, February 5th
- There will be 3 nurse stations, each station can do 20 children per hour (3 nurses = 60 students an hour)
- 95 kids are signed up as of date,
- Liz will check to see if an additional reminder will go out to parents reminding them that an additional booster shot is needed

b. Crossing Guard Status:

- a crossing guard for Nakoma Rd. from Thoreau School to cement platform was approved by the Pedestrian-Bicycle-Motor Vehicle Commission
- On March 16th @ 6:30pm there will be a budget hearing for the crossing guard, parents are encouraged to attend in room 201 City-County Building at 210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.,
- after the crossing guard is in place the sidewalk widening/extension issue will be revisited

c. Hearts for Haiti:

- Linda Mayfield (former teacher) is organizing a fundraiser to raise money for relief in Haiti
- shrinky-dinks in the shape of heart that can be worn as pins can be purchased at the school dance (2/5)
- it's a suggested donation of \$1.00 for the hearts

d. Safety Inspection:

- February 26th –Madison School District will conduct a safety inspection at Thoreau, they will check electrical wiring, structure, etc.

- The school district will pay for any updates that are needed.

2) PTO Financial/budget Update (Todd Castilow)

a. Tax Exempt Status – Todd continues to work on it

b. Budget – we are spending \$2,500 more than at this time last year, if we continue at the rate we are spending we will end the year at \$500.00 in the red

- Need to focus on fundraisers:

- **Amazon.com** – go to the PTO website and link to Amazon, Thoreau receives 6% of purchase sale, as of date we have received \$500.00

- **Target** – Red Card (visa or just for Target)- Thoreau receives 3% of purchase sale

- **Art Fundraiser** – Thoreau children make an art project and parents have the opportunity to purchase items with the image of their child's project

- **Garage Sale & Bake Sale** – April 10th – hoping to raise \$1,200

- **Barnes and Noble poetry night** – Thoreau gets a percentage of books purchased

- **Coffee** – order forms are on the bulletin board outside of the main office, Christy Ehlert is taking over the committee

- **Scrip** – Simplified Scrip went out of business, Kathleen is looking into a new company and hopes to have it in place by March

- **PTO Expenses** for the rest of the year:

- **field trip scholarships** (estimated \$2,000)

- **school directory** - 40 orders currently, available electronically or in print

- **graduation** (estimated \$750.00)

- **yearbooks** (\$1,000)

3) Fundraising Update (Kate Huntington)-

a. see Todd's report regarding fundraisers

b. Cookbook – will be available in April before Mother's Day

c. Garage Sale, April 10th – items can be dropped the night before in the gymnasium after 6pm, Louisa & Sherri are heading the committee

d. Direct donations – have raised \$1,000 as of date

- e. Box Tops** – information will go out in backpacks next week
- Laura Glazer will be in touch with teachers about receptacles to collect Box Tops
 - Box Tops will be turned in March 1st for cash
 - Laura Glazer is organizing the classroom contest this month
 - the points earned will be used to purchase items from a catalog such as playground equipment

- 4) **School Carnival Update** – Saturday, March 20th 11:30am-3pm (Alexis Booker) -
- located mainly in the gymnasium @ Thoreau
 - food will be served from 11:30am-2pm
 - conference room will have quieter games (checkers, board games, etc)
 - 115 requests for donations were mailed out, as of date Alexis has received 12 responses with 4 declining
 - 15 games will go into the gym
 - after the school dance a request for the school carnival, there will be subcommittees (food, entertainment, set-up, break-down, etc.)
 - free and reduced food tickets will be available to buy on the day of the carnival (10 cents a ticket)
 - families will have the opportunity to pay additional (\$8.00 for 40 tx)) to assist with cost coverage for families in need of free and reduced lunch
 - family packs of tickets will be available for purchase (\$20.00 for 40 tx)
 - 25 volunteers needed
 - Liz will get in touch with a fraternity that has offered to volunteer time to the school to assist with the carnival

Upcoming PTO events – Save the Dates:

Career Day – February 4th

Family Dance – Friday, February 5th 6:30-8pm (suggested donation is \$4.00)

Next PTO General Meeting: Tuesday, April 13 @ 7:00pm