

Minutes
D.A. Grout Elementary School PTA
General Business Meeting
November 1, 2012

1. Welcome – Call to Order 6:32 pm
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Principal Report, Susan McElroy –
 - a. Thank you to Benjamina for the Holiday Bazaar posters. Next time you get a chance, take a look at the Rain Garden. It works! And it looks pretty. The Nike program grant for a track is open again.
4. Budget / Fundraising Financial Report—Melanie Symms
 - a. The Harvest Festival was a success. We will break even. Thayna Baker mentioned that Angel Vercrusse felt the dance was a little out of hand because of older kids. Members agreed that there needs to be a means of managing the dance. Johanna Colgrove added that though we don't want to exclude them so we'll have to think of a resolution. All members recognized that the Harvest Festival organization needs to start much earlier in the year.
 - a. We've made \$400 so far this year from Scrip.
 - b. Volunteer Opportunities**
 - a. Dine Out Nights – Laughing Planet Dine Out on Tuesday November 6th. Only the Woodstock location. Mention that you are from Grout . They will donate 20% of the days earnings to Grout.
 - b. The next Theater night is November 29th. We will need two volunteers to work the table. Pack portions in bags or wrap to sell for 50 cents.
 - c. We're organizing a new Teacher Wish List board. Johanna will make up a flyer to let Teachers know.
 - c. New Business / Announcements**
 - a. Johanna started a brainstorming session by asking the members what projects they think we should prioritize. Thayna Baker asked everyone to "think big". Here is a list of ideas:
 - a. Benjamina Balmer – Light up the sign and lock it down so it can't be stolen.
 - b. Sara – Have electrical put in out in back of the building.
 - c. Susan – develop Playworks.
 - d. Sheila – Lighting for the back. The tile project will need to be lit. Susan added we might be able to use solar lighting.
 - e. Multiple people added playground equipment, climbing wall.
 - f. Betsy Miller and Thayna Baker – gym equipment. We need to get outside help to establish what the kids need. What are they missing? Sherilyn mentioned that escrip wants a percentage of

what we earn put towards fitness and nutrition so maybe we could use that money?

- g. Ms. Neal – Exercise discs and balls. The kids take the discs with them to the Computer Lab.
- h. Verna – noted that a leading factor of illness in kids is that they are not active enough. When we were in school, we had P.E. every day. She's a new parent, so she asked Susan what the schedule is. Susan stated that it is Playworks once a week, P.E. once a week, and recess twice a day.
 - i. Johanna asked Ms. Neal how much Teachers use the gym when it rains, and if there is anything they could use? Ms. Neal said she doesn't use the gym much. She checks to see if the Cafeteria is open, but she also has workout and dance DVD's in her class that she uses.
 - j. Susan noted that the outdoor covered space stays dry now that the berm is up.
 - k. Johanna noted that maybe donations of ponchos and rubber boots for Kenilworth Park would be good.
 - l. Thayna noted that it would be great to have the money that is needed to send every child to Camp Kiwanilong. After a little discussion it was decided that \$5000 would be needed.
- b. Johanna asked everyone to Volunteer and research what each area would need to get done. Here is the list of Volunteers:
 - a. Melanie Symms will research the rock gym.
 - b. Ben will check on nutrition services.
 - c. Betsy – Outdoor Electrical
 - d. Ms. Neal – Discs and Exercise Balls.
 - e. Verna – Sound system.
 - f. Valerie – New Play Structure.
 - g. Kirsten – Instruments.
 - h. Thayna / Angel – Gym equipment – new hoops? Equipment? Spectator space!! Exercise activities??
 - i. Susan will check on funding an arts program.
 - j. Sheila will check with her friend that creates signs about the “Grout Elementary” banners for Holgate.
 - k. Sarah – Lighted Sign.
 - l. Playworks - Susan
- c. Thayna Baker discussed the Grout Tshirts. She thanks the PTA for the shirts, but she wants to revisit the decision to pay for new shirts every year. She suggested that we buy Tshirts for Kindergartners and new students, but others will have to buy a shirt. She noted that Buckman School sells their shirts for \$5, and suggested that we charge cost. And maybe we ask Parents of older kids to donate their shirts.
 - a. Ms Neal suggested we take a survey of Parents at conference time asking them if they'd be willing to donate or pay \$5.00 Tshirts. The shirt cost averages about \$1200 a year, and it's our biggest

expenditure. Thayna suggested that we at least charge \$5. We work hard to get these funds. Verna recommended that new students and Kindergartners received Tshirts and everyone else pays if they want a new one each year. Johanna thought maybe we could have a design contest each year for a new shirt, but Sarah Price noted that that is even more expensive because we then have to pay for a new plate.

- b. Camp Kilwanilong Organizer – Thayna sent the 4th Graders notes that they should donate towards the cost of the camp. She said that that plan helps give parents an opportunity to spread that cost out. Johanna noted that Mr. Fisher had parents donate a roll of quarters. Sheila volunteered to be the coordinator this year. Thayna will do it again next year. Mr. Gilroy thought it was a good idea for the 5th Graders to tell the 4th graders about how great the camp is.
 - c. We briefly talked about Teacher Bob's retirement. Susan noted that all retiring Teacher's are celebrated at the end of each year.
 - d. Thayna asked if there could be a fund set aside for a dedication to Teacher Mary Boyce. She thinks it would be a great idea. Sheila Custer will explore a dedication plaque for the Garden.
- d. Scholastic Book Fair – Organizers - Benjamina Balmer needs Volunteers for cashier shifts during the sale. 100% of the money raised goes to the Library. The Book Fair is November 15 and 16th after school, and 19 – 20th during Teacher Conferences. There will be a Volunteer sheet in the Purple Striped notebook in the office. There are shifts available for cashiers or manning the kids. She would also like someone to help with decorations and the Teacher Wish List. Right now we have \$3000 for our Library, this sale will add on to that for Teacher Kris to buy more books. She wants to reco the reference section. Benjamina also noted that there will be an online availability for ordering. Scholastic will send books to the school. We will also need volunteers on the 14th to set up.

d. Holiday Bazaar

- a. Volunteers Needed for the Holiday Bazaar. An email will go out about shifts where we need people. There is also a sign up sheet in the purple striped volunteer book in the office. The most important job is to have people welcome visitors at the front door. We will have a board with Camp Kiwanilong information, a donation jar, and the raffle ticket sales table. There will also be little maps to hand out explaining where the Artists and Activities are.

Adjournment 7:35

Meeting Dates (always 6:30 to 7:30pm unless otherwise noted): January 10, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6.