

Montessori School of Bowling Green
PTO Meeting
January 25, 2009

In attendance: Miss Sue, Miss Megan, Miss Deb, Csaba Nyiri, Kristin Otley, Nora Engbretsen, Bev Bechstein, Pam Pinson, Jess Hover, Mary Cleland, Kate Balusik, Rachel Barnett, Catherine Clawson, Kristi Guzzanato, Jeff Miner

Speaker – Sue DiBiasio, MSBG Director of Philosophy

A very well received presentation was made by Miss Sue on Effective Communication with your child. Everyone was given a handout that recapped 10 phrases we should try to use with our children at home and we discussed various challenging scenarios that children present to parents. She reminded us that there are many books and resources available to parents on this topic as well as other topics related to the education and development of our children. These can be found on a cart in the library labeled “Parent Resources” and are available to all parents for checkout.

Opening of PTO Meeting

Csaba Nyiri, PTO President, opened the business portion of the meeting. Introductions were made. Agenda was adopted. We noted that the December minutes were distributed via e-mail and posted on the bulletin boards and website. Csaba moved to adopt the minutes, Shareen Avery seconded. Motion passed.

Report of Treasurer – Bev Bechstein

There were no expenditures in January. The current PTO Balance is \$3,674. Movie Night is this Friday. Kristi Guzzanato has submitted request for \$115 for expenses related to movie night. Miss Megan has requested \$135 to cover the Elementary dance. The motion was made to approve both expenses. Motion passed. Bev expressed appreciation that people have submitted fund request forms before the meeting. If you have something for which you need reimbursement from the PTO, the form is available on the website.

Card for Howick Family

At the last meeting we voted to provide a monetary gift to the Howick family, a former Montessori family, whose mother is very ill with cancer. A card was passed around the meeting and the card and money will be delivered this week.

Next Meeting

The board meeting was held the same night this month and as a result, Natalie Jackson was unable to attend the PTO meeting. For February, we will schedule the meeting for Thursday, February 25th at 6:30. Jess Hover spoke with Emilio Duran about being a speaker at next month's meeting. Emilio is a professor of education at BGSU. He is currently doing research comparing test results between Montessori students and BG public school students. He will be here to discuss his findings and facilitate a discussion with parents about the study.

Movie Night – Kristi Guzzanato

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs will be shown for the older kids and Scooby Doo will be show for the younger children on Friday, January 29th at 7pm. Kids are welcome to wear their PJs and bring pillows, sleeping bags, and blankets so they can get comfortable and watch the movies. Kristi will have another announcement sent in the Daily Admin notes to parents to make sure everyone is aware of the event. Friends and family are also welcome. All children are asked to be accompanied by an adult.

Spring Carnival – Jess Hover

The date of the carnival will be Friday, April 16th from 6:30-8. Jess is asking for volunteers for the committee. Student athletes will be helping with the games and we will begin organization meetings very soon. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Jess Hover.

Field Day meal

There was a suggestion at last meeting regarding the meal at Field Day. The idea on the table is to have a cookout and have people bring side dishes and desserts so we can have a more of a potluck style meal that will enforce the sense of community. We will address this further at future meetings.

Staff Appreciation meal

Shareen Avery noted that the PTO normally provides a meal to the staff during Montessori Education week. This year, Montessori Education Week is the week of February 22nd. Catherine Clawson volunteered to head up the meal for our organization. She will investigate options and report back at our next meeting with the proposed cost.

Board of Directors Representative – Jeff Miner

8 candidates for Executive Director will be coming in for interviews on Saturday, January 30th. The list will be narrowed down to determine those candidates that will go on to meet with members of the staff.

Report of President – Csaba Nyiri

We are still in need of Vice President. If anyone is interested, please let us know.

Spirit Wear fundraiser – at the last meeting we asked classroom reps to give opinions on items that we would like available for order. The order forms are being prepared currently. There will be 10 items available for students to order and 5 items available for staff to order. Samples will also be provided of all of the items for display. We will eventually be charged for the samples. Sale will run 2 weeks and we anticipate it will be delivered in March. We are still trying to determine exactly when this sale will start.

Csaba moved that we adjourn until February 25th at 6:30. Motion passed.