

PTO Minutes

November 9, 2011

1. Introductions: Present at meeting: Julie Lalor, Alisa Suelzer, Marc Suelzer, Julie Baumgardner, Brenda Castor, Jennifer Sigurgson, Kate Balusik, Anna White and Andrea Wojocieczowski.

2. Montessori Lesson-Brenda Castor: A continuation math curriculum lesson. Miss Brenda presented a demonstration tray which introduces children to the decimal system. "This is one unit", ask them to hold it, and place on the rug. "This is ten", count the beads, place on the rug. "This is 100", place on the rug. "This is 1,000". They feel the difference between one unit, and one thousand (reinforcing the concrete to the abstract approach of Montessori). If the child is ready, they do the 3-period lesson, they name everything, can you show me one unit, can you tell me what this is? (Hold up the 10 bar), etc.

3. President's Report – Kate Balusik

- a. Cross Country Bake Sale: A great success, several volunteers were able to help, and a great response to baked goods.
- b. Fall Fundraiser: About \$1250 made from this, (It seems that only about 50 % of school population purchased items)
- c. Fall Harvest Party was well attended, and had many volunteers. It was wonderful how many teachers were able to come. All our pumpkins were donated, as well as the apples. BGSU team who helped volunteer was especially helpful. Due to all the wonderful donations, only about \$30 was spent on the entire event!
- d. Baby Gifts: Two new babies in our school. Kate has sent booties to the families.
- e. Fall Conference Meals – Nov. 21 & 22: Food should accommodate about 15 people. Sign up sheets in the foyer. Monday will be more of dinner food, Tuesday, more brunch food. Will put something in Friday Features about sign up.
- f. Spring Fundraising Possibilities:
Start Friday, March 2nd through Wednesday, March 14th. (Gifts for Mother's Day). Could do Carruth, or Yankee Candle, both give a 40% profit. Another option would be Little Caesar's Pizza Kits, Butter Braids and other sweet goodies, Earth Friendly catalogs (bulbs & other items; 50% profit and 40% on 2nd book), could also do Klotz. It is decided that we will put a piece in Friday Features and have the parents vote on what they would be more likely to purchase.

4. Fall Movie Night – Dec. 2nd Kristi Guzzanato: Kristi couldn't make it to the meeting, but is curious about what movies to show, especially for the Early Childhood children. Possibly Rio?

5. Holiday Expo – Anna White: After discussion, it was felt there was too much going on with the curriculum night, and the Scholastic Book fair (which brings in a good amount of income). Perhaps the timing is not the best. We will discuss again in the future. (Possibly during Grandparents week?).
6. Treasurer’s Report – Julie Baumgardner: Ending balance as of November 9, 2011 is \$3,043.21
7. Board Representative Report – Mark Suelzer: S.W.O.T (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunity, Threat) workshop next week for 2 hours. The school will be getting re-accredited, it is important to see where our school is going in the next 5-7 years. Led by Eric Myerholtz. All parents welcome. The board did this workshop internally already, and would love to engage parents and others. It will involve strategic planning for the school. It will be an interactive meeting and a brainstorming session. Meeting is Monday, 14th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
8. Administrative Report – Kate Balusik (for Jessica Hover): Remind everyone about the Scholastic book fair, Nov. 29-Dec. 2nd. It will be run throughout the day and then will run through Curriculum night. Curriculum night; you go to your classroom, sometimes there is a lesson, open forum for questions. Last year children were able to show their parents work they were doing. A great time for extended family to come see the school. Elder-Beerman books, \$5.00 for sale through Friday.
9. Open Forum – Myles family would like to help with regard to donations. For fundraisers, etc. Our food for our Spring Carnival could be possibly donated. Does Myles do fund raisers? Alisa Suelzer asked if there has been any discussion about where our money should go; scholarships, furnace, building maintenance, marquee board.
10. Adjournment

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th at 7 p.m.