

**Gayhead Elementary PTA
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday March 21, 2007**

The *General Membership* meeting was called to order at 7:06PM by Mary Jean Staudohar, President.

Recording Secretary: Noreen Healey

Quorum Established

1. Principal's Report - Mr. Bruce Downer

- The kindergarten registration did not exceed the maximum capacity, but the Superintendent was alerted that it is a concern
- NYS Math tests are coming up...we don't know when the results will come in, but again, the results are not helpful if Administration gets them too late.
 - It was noted by a parent that perhaps the school can use the raw scores to review and take action before the school year begins. An assessment was done in Jan by the district and reviewed with the teachers, but perhaps we can ask if we can get this done sooner
- The reading intervention program seems to be working well...there has been improvements noted in just 6 weeks.
- Open House is on 4/18/07
- A parent brought up concerns regarding a pinworm incident and an incident regarding a substitute music teacher
 - Mr. Downer explained that the pinworm incident(s) was isolated and there haven't been additional known cases reported. The affected class' families were notified, the faculty was advised, and the classrooms were cleaned.
 - Re: the music teacher...the matter was handed over to the police and he is not allowed to comment on an active investigation (he assures that the children are safe) Mr. Downer stressed the importance of continually talking with your child about safety (stranger danger, etc)

2. Reading & Approval of Minutes (President, Mary Jean Staudohar)

The minutes from the February 23, 2007 *General Membership* meeting were approved.

3. Treasurer's Report (Sue Kline, Treasurer)

- \$980 was sent in to the NYS PTA (dues share)
- 5 Creative teaching grants were used up

- Copier is over budget by \$75..it was noted that the budget line may have to increase

MOTION: A motion was by Beth Brofman to move the \$75 from Office Supplies to the Copier budget line. The motion was seconded and was approved.

- The budget is expected to decline by 25% for 07-08 in efforts to support the Playground Committee mission..there will be no Spring fundraising this or next year. It's asked that the Chairs review their events and submit budget reduction ideas to the Budget Committee. The 07-08 budget is voted on in the June PTA meeting. The next PTA budget committee meeting is on 4/12/07. Please submit suggestions to the budget committee.
- The question was asked of Mr. Downer, if the Programs (assemblies) get in the way of instruction time. Mr. Downer replied that perhaps they need to be more in synch with the instruction timelines and that perhaps better planning can help.

4. Fundraising (Kathy Gately)

- It was noted that there will be no charge by the PTA for the Spring Fling/talent show and the playground committee will not be taking donations at the event. (4/27/07) It was originally thought that the PTA could forward the admission charge to the Playground committee; however due to various liability issues, this cannot be done. Discussion ensued on whether the PTA should just charge its normal admission price in support of regular PTA programs.

MOTION: A motion was made to remove the \$600 talent show/spring fling income line from the budget. The motion was seconded. The issue was discussed at length. 2 people were opposed to removing the income. The motion passed with majority.

- There is a volunteer to help run the K-2nd grade talent show, and the plan is to split the total expense budget between the 3-5th talent show (80%) and the K-2nd talent show (20%).

MOTION: A motion was made by Becky O'Mara to split the budget expense line for the Talent Show/Spring Fling with 20% going to the K-2 talent show and 80% going to the 3-5 talent show. The motion was seconded and was passed.

- \$570 was raised in the Sweats and Tees sales
- Spring pictures will be 4/12 and 4/13/07
- Book Fair - all are welcome from 6-8pm on Friday 3/23
- Senior Breakfast on 4/18 and 4/19 also applies to Kindergarten

5. Correspondence (Corresponding Sec'y, Lee Bukofsky)

Nothing to report

6. VP Administration (Rebecca Yeager)

- Deputy Hanlon (Pawling Safety Officer) will come to Gayhead on 4/25 at 7pm to speak about Cybersafety
- Anna Johanson will Chair the Staff Appreciation events. It will take place the first week of May. Please contact Ana if you can help in any way.
- Rose- the 5th grade picnic will be on 6/14/07
- PARP- the finale is on Friday 3/23rd. Participation was low at approx 400

7. VP Communication (Lisa Fusco)

- Re: Historian- If anyone has anything to give the Historian for the scrapbook, please put it in her folder in the office.

8. General

- MaryJean explained that although the PTA is not meant to raise funds for equipment, replacement of the school's portable radios is needed. They don't work well if at all, and especially in the case of being out on the playground, can be a serious safety issue.
 - 34 pairs are needed (for each classroom) at \$50/pair is a total cost of approx \$1800 (a discounted price)
 - It was not included/submitted in the budget to Mr. Powell, but is important to the safety of the children.

MOTION: A motion was made by Jean Gray to purchase the communication radios for \$1800; Amend the budget by adding an Income line for a Radio Bake Sale and to cover the shortfall, \$150 can be moved from Health & Safety expense line, and \$1400 can be moved from Banana Splits expense line, and a new expense line can be created for Radios. The motion was seconded and was passed.

- It was suggested that a bake sale be done at Open House, and that a flyer be sent home to explain that the bake sale proceeds will be used for the radios.
- There are 4 retiring teachers this year: Celtruda, DePalma, Mrs. Role, Mrs. Jankowski
- PTA donated a new flag to the school building
- The Nominating Committee is looking for people to fill positions for next years PTA Exec Committee and Chairs. Please contact Becky O'Mara if you are interested. Please contact Kelley Lewis if you would like to chair an event next year.

- The question was asked that when a student loses a parent, does the PTA send anything to the family? The PTA sends cards, flowers, and/or a gift certificate (i.e. to purchase dinner, etc.) to the family.

9. *Adjournment*

The meeting adjourned by MaryJean at 8:40PM.