

Lowell PTA Meeting
Thursday, April 22, 2004
Pending approval at the May meeting

Call to Order Mary Ann Vitone called the meeting at 9:28 am with 22 people in attendance.

Minutes from the March 2004 PTA meeting were distributed for review. Laurie Gornick made a motion for approval and Linda Oddo seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were approved as written.

New Lowell Sign: (*note: This item was added to the agenda after the minutes were approved.)

A motion was made by Mary Beth Zlock to table the sign issue. Linda Oddo seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Diane Moukheiber presented the March treasurer's report and year to date budget. She noted that the amount given to each teacher from the Jack Straws/McDonalds nights went up from \$45 to \$64. Approval for these reports was motioned by Linda Oddo and seconded by Amy Garza.

Krista Wright made a motion to request the additional \$67.50 for the 1st grade teachers to pay for the Hula Dancers during Hawaii week. Linda Oddo seconded the motion and all were in favor.

President's Report

An organization called the Friends of the Warrenville Park is raising funds to build a special needs playground at Bower School. Two fundraisers will be held. One will be May 1st and the other will be May 8th. For information on these two events, please see the posting on the PTA bulletin board by the front office.

Teacher Representative Report:

Mrs. Johnson: The 3rd through 5th grade teachers were polled and only the 3rd and 4th grades would like to go with the National Geographic magazine. 200 copies would be needed for a total of \$500. Any extras will be placed in the rainy day cart. The order will be placed now due to a discount and the bill will arrive in September. Ron Smith made a motion to commit prior year's funds for these magazines to be paid out next school year. Linda Oddo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The communication between the PTA and staff is improving. The minutes are now put in the staff's mailboxes. The minutes and budget are posted in the Lounge.

Thank You: Attached is the thank you list for April activities.

Officer's Report.

Sharon and Krista reported about a 50-50 split for filled chair positions for next year. Jamboree still needs 2 chair people. The sub committees all have chairs.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: Cindy Stark – Nominated positions for PTA 2004-2005 are as follows: President, Mary Ann Vitone; Vice Presidents, Sharon Carroll and Krista Wright; Secretary, Patti Scheuman; Treasurer, Diane Moukheiber. Will hold elections at

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May 2004 meeting. The nominations will be posted for 30 days on the PTA board at the front of school. A pamphlet spelling out the exact procedures for nominations was missing from the committee folder. Mary Plepel will make sure the folder is up to date for next year.

Market Day: Lori Vesevick is doing more research into getting a lock for the PTA freezer in the lounge. There have been some thefts recently of market day items. If the district does the work it will not be done until next year. A parent from Lowell, Larry Broyles has volunteered to install it. There is still \$210 left in the market day budget.

Teacher Appreciation Week: Some of the teachers questioned why they have to have food in the lounge everyday for the entire week. Krista Wright will call Mary Lou Fischer, the chairperson, to see what she thinks. The original intent of this committee was to only do a lunch on Friday and then let the parents do what they want during the week.

Spirit Day: an idea was brought up to collect quarters at the next spirit day to give to the Friends of the Warrenville Park. This money would help fund the park for special needs children.

Snowflurry: It will be held this Friday at Edison. It is not certain how many 4th and 5th graders signed up for it.

PTA Council: The Hubble task force is together and met last night. Pam Nickerson is in this group and she said to make sure you stay informed with the issues in Hubble. Even if your children will not attend the school, there will be a referendum about it. The district web site has a Q&A section about Hubble. Bids are in for the improvements at the two high schools. They came in under budget do the district was able to upgrade floor selections and fix the bleachers for the visiting teams. Title I funds are being cut. These are federal funds for low-income children. There are fewer children so the funds are less. The teaching staff for next year at all schools is being reviewed. There will be 20 less staff members due to retirement and lower enrollment. None will be cut but some may be moved to a different school. A note went home last week to Lowell parents inquiring about returning students. It isn't known at this time how many classes of each grade will be needed next year.

Cultural Arts: A note was received from Shelly Leone regarding the assembly possibilities for next year. Mr. Lee is no longer doing presentations. He will be away on a mission trip next year. Other options include Mad Science which is one week of classroom workshops, DuPage Children's Museum, Georgia Sea Island Singers which put on a program about the south and the freeing of slaves; and AC Rock, an a capella rock and roll group. All of the above programs come highly recommended by other schools and their teachers. The Lowell staff needs to be polled to see what they would like to see next year.

Announcements

Next PTA meeting – Friday, May 27th at 11:45am at the beginning of the Volunteer Luncheon.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.

“True teaching, then, is not that which gives knowledge, but that which stimulates pupils to gain it.”

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“Your legacy should be that you made it better than it was when you got it.”

“Courage is the resistance of fear – not the absence of it.”

Submitted by Patti Scheuman, Secretary