

Lowell PTA Meeting
Thursday, September 23, 2004
Pending approval at the October 2004 meeting

Call to Order Mary Ann Vitone called the meeting to order at 9:28 am with 21 people in attendance.

Minutes from May 2004: The minutes were reviewed; there were no comments or changes. Meg Beasley motioned to approve the minutes and Denise DeSalvo gave a second to the motion. All were in favor.

Teacher Representative Report: Our teacher reps for this year are Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. MacLeod. Field trips were the main discussion. The only field trips the district is paying for is 3rd grade trips to the Arboretum and History Center; 4th grade going to the Lincoln Marsh; and 5th grade going to the Arboretum. The teachers are requesting funding from PTA to help cover the costs of other field trips. Mrs. DeSalvo will check with the school treasurer to see if parents can donate money to a field trip fund to help pay for the field trips of kids who cannot afford the costs.

2nd and 5th graders declined the offer to receive the Scholastic Election edition. The other grades will receive them.

Treasurer's Report: Diane Moukheiber presented the budget for the year. She reviewed the budget and explained the new format, which has changed from last year.

Due to the failing grade that the Campbell Soup labels received as a fundraiser, the labels will no longer be accepted after October 29. The budget listed will be used to do one more mail in.

Starr Reading requested more than their \$550 budget. Last year 445 books were awarded. This year 90 new tests were added to the program and many of them for popular book series'. The requested budget item was \$750 and was changed in the budget. The income from McDonald's/Jack Straws and Box Tops fundraisers will be raised by \$100 each to cover this added expense.

Lowell Directory. Sharon will make sure the PTA website is listed in the Lowell directory.

President's Report: Mary Ann welcomed everyone and reiterated that the mission of PTA is to benefit all children. She also made sure everyone knew that, as a board, we are here to help committees, take in ideas, and give support where needed.

CPR: We are looking for someone else who can teach CPR to a group here at Lowell. The details for this class are still being worked out and more details will come later.

Vision and Hearing Screening is in October

Indoor Recess Equipment: A note will be put in the Friday memo asking for gently used games that have all their pieces. If not a lot of response is received; PTA will consider purchasing games for the kids to play.

Character Counts Coalition: The city is looking for volunteers for its preparedness group. There are 600 volunteers so far and the goal is to have 6000. This group will be utilized when a disaster happens. If anyone is interested, please visit the web site www.citizencorpsdupage.org. A survey was conducted on what people think of Wheaton's following of Character Counts. Mary Ann will be receiving more information on that.

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The Sheriff discussed the new program to replace D.A.R.E. The program, Too Good for Drugs, gets parents more involved.
Fire Prevention week is October 3-9.

Thank You: A listing of those people the PTA would like to thank for all their effort in October is attached. A letter was received and read from Mary Sunday regarding Snow flurry. PTA donated funds to help pay for a speaker for that event.

Officer's Report Most positions are filled for the year. Heather Hein needs a co-chair for Discovery Day. Also Kate Berry has requested some help for the Star Newspaper. Liz Albert and Mary Ann Matthei volunteered.

Committee Report:

Sally Foster: Wrapping Paper orders have been extended one week. The sale of Entertainment Books is an added fundraiser from Sally Foster. On November 12, each family will receive two books per household. These books can be purchased by the family, sold to others, or returned to school. A note should be added to the Friday memo soon stating that the books will be coming home in November. Many other groups are also selling these books.

Get Smart with Art: Things are going great. A couple people are taking advantage of the art training at the Art Institute. Still looking at sculptures and how we can bring them into the school to show the kids instead of pictures of them.

Character Counts: Assembly is October 8 at 9:30 and 10:30am. A new program is put in place at school. If a child does something that goes against a pillar, there will be a sheet for the kids to fill out. It will start as a trial during the lunchtime recess. There will be a checklist of those items that go against the pillars, such as bullying, or fighting. There will be an essay contest again this year. Essays are due October 14; three essays from each grade will be recognized; no names should go on the essays; everyone who writes an essay will receive something for participating; top essays will be printed in the Lowell Star and receive a certificate. If anyone is interested in helping read these essays, please contact Deb Hamilton.

Cultural Arts: A list of assemblies will be posted on the PTA bulletin board by the front door. The current schedule is Childs Play on May 17 at 1:30pm; Washington Follies on February 16 at 9:30 and 10:30am; Poetry Man on April 21 and 22 for 4th and 5th graders; Wheel of Wisdom on June 3; Mad Science on October 18 for 2nd grade; and Mad Science on April 21 for 3rd grade.

Jamboree: Theme for this year is Western and will take place on March 4th. A volunteer is needed to coordinate the t-shirts for the workers. No redemption room this year, prizes will be given at each game.

PTA Council Meeting: Contact Denie Young at dyoung@cusd200.org if you'd like to receive an email with highlights from the school board meetings. WDSRA spends a day with the 3rd graders. The district is looking at making it part of a weeklong curriculum. A committee is meeting to create ideas for Veterans Day activities, since school is now in session.

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New Business:

Turn off the TV week: There will be daily activities to encourage participation. Krista Wright made a motion to approve \$200 from prior year's funds for the activities. Meg Beasley seconds the motion. All were in favor.

Benches for outside: Two benches need to be replaced outside by the two parks. One option would be recycled plastic material and cost approx. \$525, including shipping. Another option is steel, like the ones in downtown Wheaton, for approx. \$900, including shipping. There will be further discussions during the October meeting.

Prior year's funds spending: The following list contains those items that were approved using prior years funds. The items, amount and those that made the motion and 2nd motion are listed.

Kindergarten field trip	\$300	Mary Ann Vitone/ Liz Albert
Magazines/Parent newsletter	\$2200	Patti Scheuman/ Beth Miller
Rubber gloves for lunchroom	\$30	Mary Ann Vitone/Amy Garza
Scholastic Election Issue (K, 1 st , 3 rd , 4 th only)	\$1100	Mary Ann Vitone/Diane Moukheiber
Pencil Grips (K – 2 nd)	\$350	Krista Wright/ Denise DeSalvo
Specific Classroom Supplies (Videos, posters elison die cut, clocks, math books, posters, Native American box)	\$800	Amy Garza/ Denise DeSalvo

Mrs. DeSalvo will gather specific information regarding field trips. She will get this information to Mary Ann by October 18th.

Principal's Report:

Thank you for the Kick off coffee and the back to school social. Both were a big success. ISAT testing this year will be March 7 – 14.

Lowell has been taken off the states watch list for the No Child Left Behind act. The state made and admits to making a mistake in its calculation. Preliminary results show we are not on the list for this year.

The district will be holding town meetings at the various schools to discuss the vision of District 200's future. PTA, parents, and businesses will be encouraged to attend.

Mentor Moms program: is there any way we can incorporate Spanish speaking moms to help mentor new Spanish speaking families?

Lowell beautification: would like PTA to take this over. Cindy Hummel has already volunteered to be the chair for this.

Framed artwork in the library: Sitting on the top of the bookshelves are framed pictures of Lowell students reading a book. The pictures were taken at various spots around Lowell.

Voicemail: the ability to send a voicemail to a teacher is coming soon. There are some difficulties yet to work out.

Webmaster: Lowell school web site will be produced this year.

Mrs. McAllister is settling into her position. She is involved in the new math curriculum being written.

Dr. Catalani will be visiting Lowell in November. He will attend our April PTA meeting.

Stage: this is still being looked into. Some concerns that are being looked at are safety, handicap accessibility, and daycare. A semi-permanent stage is also being looked at.

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Announcements

Picture Day – September 29th
Character Counts Assembly – October 8th (9:30 & 10:30)
Wrapping paper order due – October 1st
Wrapping paper pick up – October 20th
Market Day pickup – October 5th
October PTA meeting – Thursday, October 28th 12:15pm
Holiday Program – December 10th

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Submitted by Patti Scheuman, Secretary

“The future belongs to those who believe in their dreams.” Eleanor Roosevelt 20th century American stateswoman, First Lady

“Conviction is worthless unless it is converted into conduct.” Thomas Carlyle, 19th century Scots-English historian, author

“Of all the paths a man could strike into, there is, at any given moment, a best path...a thing which, here and now, it were of all things wisest for him to do...to find his path and walk in it.” Thomas Carlyle, 19th century Scots-English historian, author