

**Lowell PTA Meeting**  
**February 23, 2006**  
*Pending Approval at March 2006 Meeting*

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 9:22 a.m. by Krista Wright with 13 people in attendance.

**Minutes from January 2006 meeting:** The minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Guest speaker Chris Gilbertsen, Lowell Nurse** - She pointed out that February is Heart Awareness Month and that heart disease is the number 3 killer of women over 25. She urged women to become aware of their blood pressure and cholesterol levels. She discussed and demonstrated Lowell's portable Automatic External Defibrillator, which has pads for both adults and children. It is located on the west wall of the multipurpose room. When in use, an alarm sounds to signal that help is needed. If accidentally alarmed, there is a key in the fire extinguisher (left of AED) to turn off the alarm. At Lowell those certified are Mrs. DeSalvo, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Gilbertsen, Mr. Orlow, Mrs. Minser, and the inside lunch monitors. Written procedure of how to use the AED is posted, and the AED unit also gives audio instructions.

## **REPORTS**

### **President's Report**

Krista Wright circulated this month's clipboard items: information about the PTA state convention; a flyer Max and Erma's fundraiser for District 200 Special Olympics; information from PTA Council meeting; and a nomination form for District 200 Distinguished teacher award

Report from PTA Council - There was a presentation from the DuPage County Sheriff's Office about Internet safety. They discussed kids forming negative relationships and getting involved in drug sales or with pedophiles. Good suggestions were given. There will be more on this topic.

Operation Safe Celebration (OSC), a supervised, drug-and alcohol-free event following prom that takes place at the community center, is in need of funding. Approximately 1,600 students from both high schools attended in 2005. Lowell PTA has given money in past, but when PTA guidelines were tightened, we could not participate. OSC has come up with a way for PTAs to donate a nominal fee for the games vendor. At one point when OSC had excess funding, many groups did not donate. Since 9-11 financial support has fallen. This year, OSC was unable to find a chairperson until January, and fundraising is behind schedule. Following a discussion about how parents hope that our children can participate in the event when in high school, Beth Miller motioned that the PTA contribute \$50 to Operation Safe Celebration. Kathy Keefe seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The State PTA Convention takes place April 27 - 29 in Lisle this year. The Lowell PTA can pay for someone to attend the convention. Krista asked for volunteers and said that the workshops are beneficial. She needs to know who can attend by the March PTA meeting.

N.E.W. 200 Foundation Distinguished Teacher Award - Parents or students may nominate teachers. The nomination form is posted on the PTA bulletin board, on the PTA website, and will be mentioned in the Lowell Memo.

### **Teacher's Representatives Reports**

Theresa Rindt and Barbara MacDonald attended the meeting and discussed the following:

*Classroom parties* - The PTA asked whether or not Lowell teachers feel the classroom parties are too frequent or too elaborate. The teachers feel that they work well with their room coordinators and that the parties are appropriate.

*Working parents* - The teachers commended the PTA for coming up with a list of ways that working parents can be involved in the school. Together with Mrs. DeSalvo, the teachers also worked on a list. Between the two, there seems to be an unlimited number of events and activities for working parents.

The ideas will be publicized to working parents through classroom newsletters and the Lowell Memo.

*Jamboree auction* - Teachers were asked how they felt about having a separate, adults-only silent auction at an off-site location. As long as classroom baskets are still part of Jamboree, the teachers support the idea, but pointed out that many teachers would be unable to attend the event. They acknowledge that other school's who stage similar events raise a substantial amount of money.

Sharon Carroll announced that a PTA survey, distributed following Jamboree, will ask for parents' opinions about the silent auction and other fundraisers.

### **Treasurer/financial secretary**

Treasurer's Report - Krista reviewed the treasurer's report.

She mentioned that two PTA fundraisers are underbudget:

- Market Day. Based on this year's revenues, this is likely the last year for Market Day. In the past Market Day generated \$1,500 per month; it has fallen to \$300 per month and involves a lot of volunteer time.

- General Mills Box Tops is down as well. In December 2004, the program raised \$2000; December 2005 funds were just over \$400. One factor attributed to the lower revenues is the lack of publicity at the beginning of the school year. Since December, there has been information in the Lowell Memo.

Some events have come in over-budget including the recent author's visit (overbudget by \$250).

### **Vice Presidents' Reports**

Committee Reports -

*Jamboree* - Ann Marie Matthei said that everything is going smoothly. There is a concern that there are no extra or "floater" volunteers in case scheduled volunteers have to cancel. She asked for help in getting the word out. There was discussion about having hour-long shifts or making Jamboree one hour shorter. Some middle and high school volunteers were recruited.

*Yearbook* - Chair Beth Miller says it's going smoothly. She has hundreds of photos and has to go through all of them. The yearbook layout is due on March 17. She is not sure if she needs help. She asked Mrs. DeSalvo for the principal's letter. The yearbooks will be \$11, same as last year. Order forms will go home soon. Cover options include keeping it the same or doing a new one. Parents wanted each one to be unique. Suggestions for future yearbooks include having a fifth grade art contest. Beth will talk with Mrs. DeClute. Patti Scheuman will take photos during Jamboree.

**Turn off TV Week** - The committee is working on two events:

- April 24 - "Mr. Nicky," a children's songwriter will perform. He will sell his CDs following his presentation.

- Thursday, April 27 - a casual family game night with popcorn

### **Character Counts**

There is some concern about behavior on the playground. The PTA Character Counts committee will have a lunchtime program to reiterate appropriate playground behavior. The committee is trying to schedule the Speaker's Night presenter, Joan Lopina to lead role-playing activities to provide the kids with ways to minimize conflict. PTA wants to have at least one lunchroom program this year. There was discussion about involving teachers by having them talk with their students following the lunch presentations. This will help PTA get feedback about the effectiveness of the presentations. At-home discussions will be encouraged through the Lowell Memo. A few days after the presentations, Mrs. DeSalvo will have a lunchtime discussion with the students about playground behavior. There will be more information in March and a vote to approve funds.

### **Nominating Committee**

The slate of officers for the 2006/2007 school year was announced. The slate will be posted on the PTA Bulletin Board for 30 days:

Cindy Hummel, President  
Patty Gebner, 1st Vice President  
Kathy Keefe, 2nd Vice President  
Molly Morris, Treasurer  
Meg Beasley, Secretary

### **Principal's Report**

- Looking forward to Jamboree.
- ISAT: 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are preparing up for ISATs (3rd and 5th grade reading and math) 4th grade (reading, math, and science)
- PE is having another big show on 3/21
- District 200 Board of Education meeting is on March 22 at Lowell - Some children may be involved
- Dr. Catalani will attend the next PTA meeting on March 23 (he will be at Lowell from 9-11 a.m.), feel free to come and ask him questions
- The Lowell 5K, coordinated by Linda Oddo, will take place on April 15.
- During the January 2006 meeting, the teachers mentioned that they wanted whiteboards for each classroom. Lowell will try to purchase the boards through its building funds.
- The seeding of the recess/athletic field is still a problem. The Park District is responsible for maintaining. Mrs. Minser has applied for a grant to put in a limestone walking path to go around the entire field.
- Chick unit discussion - There were some questions about the rationale behind cancelling the kindergarten egg-to-chick unit. Mrs. DeSalvo discussed the risk of allergies through direct contact, and also for other students with allergens being transmitted through the HVAC system. Kindergarten teachers are working on a field trip as an alternative.

**Adjournment:** Following a prize drawing, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.