

**Lowell PTA Meeting**  
**October 26, 2006**

*Pending Approval at the November meeting*

**Call to Order:** PTA Meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. with 17 people in attendance.

**Minutes from the September 26 meeting:** The minutes were approved as circulated. The minutes will now be distributed electronically to the teacher representatives.

**PTA Bylaws and Standing Rules**

**Bylaw Revisions**

Patti Scheuman presented the revised PTA Bylaws and explained their importance. Bylaws are changed by the state PTA. She outlined the major changes:

Article V, Section 4 - The membership year shall be from July 1 through June 30.

Article VII, section 4, added c. - The president should sign all legal documents including contracts. (Chairs should present contracts to Cindy Hummel.)

Article XIII, Section 4, added b. - If approved bylaws do not exist, the current Illinois PTA Bylaws for local PTA/PTSA Units shall be in effect.

**Standing Rules**

Cindy overviewed the Lowell PTA Standing Rules and changes:

- 1 - Membership - individual memberships will be \$5 each. The verbiage about joint memberships will be removed as they have not been offered for many years due to accounting difficulties. Dues for PTA council are now \$100 instead of a portion of individual memberships.
- 2 - A new duty of the Lowell PTA secretary will be to check and respond to feedback from both the online suggestion box and the suggestion box outside the Lowell administrative offices.
- 3 - There was discussion about adding a new rule limiting the number of years that individuals can serve as committee chairs. After some discussion, there was a vote to make this an unwritten rule. It will not be added to the Standing Rules.

Patti Gebner made a motion to amend the Standing Rules; Karen Seymour-Ells seconded. After a vote, the Standing Rules were amended.

**Teachers Representative Report**

Mrs. Rindt gave a report on behalf of the Lowell faculty.

- Both students and teachers enjoyed the Character Counts Assembly.
- The teachers are interested in the return of the Campbell Soup Labels fundraiser. The funds were used to purchase cassette players and head sets. There is not enough equipment and some of it is falling apart. Mrs. Hurley, Mrs. Rindt, and Mrs. McDonald propose that Student Council take on Campbell Soup Labels. The PTA will be available to help with the effort if necessary.
- The teachers need information about the Child's Play assembly. The Cultural Arts chair will contact Mrs. Rindt.
- As part of their field trip funding, the 4th and 5th grade classes have had Bill the Poet, who performs and leads exercises in poetry writing. In ranking field trip/classroom program funding priorities, the 4th grade has decided not to participate, while the 5th grade wants to continue to have this program. The 5th grade teachers want to know if there is enough money to cover his program without the participation of 4th grade. The Cultural Arts chair will contact Mrs. Rindt.
- For Make a Difference Day, the student council is coordinating a snack drive. The Student Council coin collection raised \$753.13 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

- The student council will help the PTA go through the indoor recess game inventory. Cindy Hummel announced that the Dominick's coupons generated \$119.00 that will be used to purchase additional games and sturdy containers in which to store them.
- There will be a teacher's wish list for items they want to have donated. It will be posted on the PTA bulletin board, website, and newsletter.

### **Officer Reports**

#### **President**

Report from PTA council. The focus of the council meeting was the recent flooding that closed the administrative offices and some schools.

Cindy Hummel and Mrs. DeSalvo discussed the new district Wellness Policy. Every school that receives federal funding must have a wellness policy in place. The school nurse Mrs. Gilbertsen is looking for volunteers to serve on Lowell's Wellness Committee. Vending machines will be removed from middle schools and high schools. Sodexo is working to improve the nutritional quality of the hot lunch program. Mrs. Gilbertsen has reviewed the policy with teachers. The policy has far-reaching effects including fundraisers such as cookie dough sales, the food served at the Jamboree food court and candy grams, and food served during classroom parties. These changes will be made gradually with an emphasis on moderation.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Molly Morris distributed the Monthly Treasurer's Report. The checkbook balance as of 9/30/06 was \$20,809.92

She pointed out that the Lowell Spirit Wear will net zero. Chair Linda Oddo announced that there will be another Spirit Wear sale before the holidays.

Wrapping Paper Sales totaled \$18,960.55. The Lowell PTA receives \$9,844 of the sales.

#### **Vice Presidents' Report**

- PTA is looking for a co-chair for the DARE graduation.
- The Silent Auction is being moved from Jamboree to the Trivia Night. Judy York O'Neill is chairing the committee and needs help. Anyone interested should contact Patti Gebner.

#### **Principal's Report**

- Mrs. DeSalvo reminded everyone of half-day schedule and report card distribution.
- Conferences are coming up and take place the same time as the book fair, which is from October 30 through November 6.
- She followed up on a question from the last meeting regarding the amount of space per child during recess and reported that there is no district standard.
- She praised the Student Council's coin collection for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.
- School Improvement Planning takes place on October 27. Lowell faculty will work on plans for reading and math with preliminary data from the ISAT tests.
- Parent/teacher workroom is nearly finished. Lighting and countertops will be installed. She asked for working desk chairs to be donated or purchased with PTA funds.
- On Election Day, there is a need for volunteers to monitor the hallways to ensure that the elections do not interfere with school activities.
- Mrs. DeSalvo is looking for volunteers to serve on two committees: the Wellness committee and a new English Language Learners (ELL) committee. Those interested should contact Mrs. DeSalvo.
- The Basketball program will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning in January until March 7.

- Character Counts - The new bulletin board has generated excitement with students. Designed by Character Counts chair Joe Welsh, it has tubes for ping pong balls that will be filled with students' names. When teachers note that students are demonstrating one of the pillars of character, the student's name will be written on the balls and placed in the tubes.

### **Committee Reports**

*Wrapping Paper & Entertainment Books* - Internet orders will be accepted through December 31. Entertainment Book order forms will go home to parents soon. Books will be sent when parents pay for them (\$20).

*Jamboree* - is scheduled on Friday, March 2 from 5 until 9 p.m. There is a Jamboree kickoff meeting for chairs on Nov. 8 from 8 until 9 p.m. at the home of the chair, Cathy Smith.

*Reflections* - So far, the chair has 27 entries. The deadline is October 30.

*Cook's Night Out* - Chair Karen Seymour-Ells announced upcoming events and asked for ideas for restaurants and teachers who might be able to attend. Baja Fresh, Gino's, and Culvers are scheduled for the fall. Home Run Pizza does a make-and-take program where families can pick up pizzas to make at home. Lowell may participate.

*Cookie Dough* - This new fundraiser was added to replace the revenue loss from the elimination of Market Day.

*Lowell Mentors* - Chair Amy Garza reported changes to the mentor program that include a welcome tea for new parents. She asked for a bigger budget to host another one. The board cannot approve additional funds, but the committee is encouraged to host an additional tea with donated baked goods (baker's list) and PTA's supply of paper goods.

*Trivia Night* - Sue Richtor and Michele Mordacq are co-chairs for this event which is on Saturday, February 3 at the American Legion. Tickets are \$15 per person to cover the cost of renting the facility and the prizes. Each table will have a theme and will join together as a team for the trivia game. The evening will include a social hour and silent auction.

**Date Change for November Meeting** - The next regular PTA meeting was scheduled for November 16, however, it does not give the PTA enough time to post the bylaws for the required 30 days. The meeting will now take place on November 30.

**New Business** - Janice Zurawski, the Health and Safety chair, needs volunteers on November 2 for the vision and hearing screening. She needs 4 morning volunteers and 4 afternoon volunteers.

**Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn was made by Linda Oddo and seconded Mrs. DeSalvo. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.