**December 3, 2012 Petrova Parents’ Club Meeting**

**Petrova Elementary School Library, 7pm**

Attendees and Inroductions: Don Carlisto, Josh Dann, Carrie Bradley, Zoe Smith, Lori Mouranie, Polly Kelting, Bob Laba, Jen Clark, Jenn Small, Tracy Goetz, Jen Yousey

### Education Forum:

* Organize a forum for the Petrova community to educate themselves about the current APPR system. Standardized state test scores are now used to evaluate teachers, and how it comes across to teachers and students. 2010 education law: new way to evaluate teachers. Test scores. Union mitigated the percentage down to 20% of evaluation.
* Forum will address pros and cons about testing.
* Don has one model, professor from local college in education who could provide a non-biased perspective on what the values are. Short question and answer sessions with follow-up sessions. Boces representative needed at forum. This will be an informational meeting only!
* Many side conversations are happening. Can students be exempt from testing? This usually happens in bigger schools and there are consequences. There have been around 7 districts contacting superintendent the issue. We need to find out where the line is where testing is useful, but not harmful to our children and teaching environment.
* What are the consequences, financially, options? NY state contract to develop state assessments costs around 38 M. This districts’ race to the top money equates to about $54K; we are spending more than that in administration and paperwork.
* We have school wide scores. How has the testing changed the curriculum in the classroom?
* Have the forum sometime in Jan or Feb

### Treasurers Report:

* Above budget for the Holiday Raffle! Way to go Bob, and everyone who bought and sold tickets.
* Teachers with mini grants bought their supplies on sale, saving $900 for future mini-grants.
* Bob will detail donations to the school district to Dan Bower.

### School Directory Report:

* 99% positive response. Josh has been working the details of the names and addresses.

### Afterschool Programs:

* Final swim class for 3rd graders ended.
* Brittany Smith is coordinating programs. Calendar schedule sent home is very nice.
* Maybe should have kids list all of their choices, ranked from most desired to least, but will take it, instead of just 3 choices.

### Holiday Raffle:

* Winners should be posted on line, facebook
* Above budget!

### Facebook:

* More users are checking in all the time. Serving its’ purpose of getting information out to people.

### Holiday Giving:

* Donations seem low for this year. Need more dad and kid gifts.
* Gift bags didn’t work as well. Kids want to open a wrapped gift.
* Need bags from the grocery store to send the gifts home with.
* Wednesday: set up- 3-7pm; Thursday: 9am- 3pm
* Letter to be sent to parents asking for wrapping paper, gift tags, gift bags, and small boxes by grade.
* Fifth graders first, then K. Fifth graders will help their kinder-buddies choosing gifts and wrapping them.
* A parent helper could go to classroom before hand to collect money, kids go to shop, bring their presents back to classroom to wrap, with assistance of parent helpers, and/or Key Club members. Josh will ask the teachers about handling the money. Kids can send in a $1 for 4 gifts in their folders. Teachers will collect and write a ticket for a number of gifts. Jennifer Clark will coordinate volunteers for Wednesday and Thursday.

### Recess Help:

* Get Dads in the schools, program is called Watch Dogs, a National program encouraging fathers to help in the school yard.
* Anyone can attend recess on any day to help, just come in the office. Recess/lunch hours are 11:30-1pm
* Sub Committee to get together to discuss recess and an Indoor recess program.

### Parent/Teacher Conference Snacks:

* Lori had between 6-8 people to help. Teachers loved it. Lori thanks for the great food.
* Lori thanks all of the volunteers that helped.

### Principal Update:

* 4th and 5th graders playing rough at recess