Petrova Parents’ Club Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2013, Elementary School Library

Attendees: Zoe Smith, Becky LaDue, Michelle Davis, Carrie Bradley, Marianne Burdeau, Jenn Small, Josh Dann, Jen Yousey, Polly Kelting, Lori Mouranie, Bob Laba

Treasurers Report

* Bob reported on income from Christmas tree sales and Holiday Giving.
* A donation will be made this month to the local food pantry for half of the money made at Holiday Giving.
* The Parents’ Club account at Community Bank is officially closed. Be sure that all flyers for solicitations, sales, and donations request checks made to the Saranac Lake Rotary Foundation, who is handling our finances. Also, we will try to conduct less cash sales, as much as possible.
* We bought speakers for Smartboards, and have 3 more to buy. We can buy 2 now and wait to buy the third in the spring. Little ones are going to Jen and Elaine’s room. They already have newer computers so that will save some money. We are comfortable with these purchases since we have met all of our fundraising budget goals so far!

Holiday Giving Discussion

* Holiday giving went very well. Much thanks to the custodians; they even transported the remaining items to St. Bernards for their sale.
* An improvement for next year is to try to communicate to teachers a little better about collecting the money in their classrooms. Also, have more children write-out their gift tags in the classroom before coming to shop and have their gifts wrapped. This made the flow in the shopping area much smoother for those that pre-wrote their tags.
* The 5th grade Kinderbuddies and wrapping in the Kindergarten classrooms was great. It worked out very well for the 5th graders to shop first, as they are more discriminating buyers now!
* Some really nice items were given. Much thanks to Victoria Sturgeons’ mother for making all of the wonderful items handmade items for sale. Lori sent her a thank you note.

Principal’s Update

* After school programs are running very smoothly. It would be courteous if people could let the school know if a child will not be attending a class that they signed up for, but not required by any means.
* Building security will be increased soon. All doors will be locked at all times and parents will have to wait outside for their children. The only entrance will be at door 2 by the main office. If a parent is picking a child up early, they will have to be required to sign in and wait at the office. Josh will look into having volunteers have background checks before they are allowed to work with the children on a regular basis.
* Josh participated in a safety walk through with police and fire safety officials to review emergency procedures for the school. It was a very enlightening and informative.

Community Education Forum: Getting a Handle on Testing in K-5

* Group of parents met last Friday to plan a community forum to educate our parents on how much testing is occurring in our elementary schools. The forum will specifically address testing requirements from the Federal Race to the Top money, from NY State, from the District, and from our own teachers.
* The forum will be the first in a series. The purpose of this first forum is to get the facts out so parents better understand what is going on in our children’s classrooms.
* The subcommittee included some Bloomingdale parents.
* Zoe can email the notes from the meeting to anyone who is interested in helping to plan the event or know good speakers. The Community Education Forum is currently scheduled for February 27 in the elementary school auditorium from 6:30-8pm.

School Directory

* Josh reported that the directory is almost done. A few minor checks need to be made and then it will be passed to Ken for formatting and publishing.

After School Programs

* Second swim session will be starting on the Jan 28.
* Programs are going well. Kids know where to go and are excited. Iron Man grant money for snowshoeing 2nd and 5th graders needs to be scheduled, after winter carnival would be best. Everything is covered by the grant. Marianne and Lori will coordinate with the teachers on a date.
* Zoe will get potential dates and program description to Lori and Marrianne next week.

Winter Carnival

* Feb 2, 11am-2pm in the gym. Friday night setup at 5:30pm. Another setup time could be early Sat morning.
* Katie will run book table.
* We need about 4 volunteers for admissions, 4 volunteers for the cafeteria, and a cleanup team. Brandee Clark will emcee the cake walk.
* Bob already arranged for cakes from Paul Smiths College-they offered 15! Could one be on silent auction table?
* Josh will arrange for 15 pizzas; Polly/Jenn will get carrots and apples or clementines.
* Flyers with the logo are needed. Distribute flyers around town- Josh Alert Now. Zoe will coordinate this.
* A flyer needs to be made to request book, CD, and DVD donations- no VHS tapes please. Lori will work with Josh on this.
* Hats- have a set amount given, will pay what we sell. Bob will buy 150 hats, of which about 40 could be worn by students marching in the parade. We may have to sell hats to parents outside.
* Petrova will march in the parade again- Jenn will call to sign Petrova up. Bob will look into the possibility of the making a float.

Family Night: Wednesday, Jan 30

* It’s math and art night. Zoe will ask if Kass and Cecily will want to help out getting snacks.

Mini-Grant Applications are due Jan 25th

* Minigrants are due the 25th. Grade Liaison’s will send email to teachers as a reminder.
* Discussion of the applications will be before the next PPC meeting on the Feb 4, at 6 pm in the elementary school library.

Other Business

* Lori reported that the lunch accounts program does not give a warning when your account is low. Lori will put something on facebook letting parents know. You have to get an id number from MaryLou (the longer number, starting with a 9, not the pin number). You can track what your child is purchasing in the cafeteria. There is a $1.95 fee to load your accounts on the NutriKids website. Look for the link district webpage.
* Zoe brought info on WatchDogs, a program to get Dads involved in helping out at recess. Josh can sift through it and see what we could do.
* New after school program will start after spring break. It will be a Garden Club open to 3rd-5th, maybe 2nd too. Mia Ross is a Master Gardner, who will be our guide and the Saranac Lake Community Garden can also assist as needed. Brittany Smith and Pat Banker have written a grant for garden related supplies; we will know mid-month if we are awarded any funds. Polly can work with Becky to coordinate details in March.
* We were awarded $650 for construction of 3 additional composting bins from the Paul Smiths College Sustainability Fund. PSC students are conducting environmentally educational activities with the EcoClub beginning last semester. They are excited to come again spring semester and have offered to help construct the composting bins.

**Next meeting is Monday, February 4 at 6:30pm (come early to discuss mini grant proposals).**