

JFK PTO MEETING
May 12, 2010

In Attendance: See attached

Meeting called to order at 7:10 by Linda Marchesini. Jackie Prince recorded the minutes.

Jackie Prince moved to waive the reading of the April 2010 minutes and to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded. The motion passed and the April 2010 minutes were approved as written.

Election of Officers for 2010-2011

- A motion was made to pass the proposed slate of officers for 2009-2010 as follows; Linda Marchesini and Risa Rizzo, Co-Presidents; Hillary Carusso Vice President; Denise DeSimon, Treasurer; Francine Cuciti, Assistant Treasurer; Linda Brooks, Corresponding Secretary; Jackie Prince, Recording Secretary. The motion was seconded. There were no nominations from the floor. The motion passed and the slate of officers for 2010-2011 was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Caroline Mastres

Co-President's Report: presented by Linda Marchesini and Karen Marron

- ❖ At the President's meeting on May 5th, James Fallon Elementary announced that they will be hosting a circus fundraiser.
- ❖ Roger Hawkins, who heads the environmental program, is retiring at the end of this year. He will be missed.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Presented by Linda Brooks

- We received many thank-you notes from the teachers for the luncheon and the pies.
- We received a few thank-you notes for the TREPS program and for the gifts that the PTO gave to the teachers who participated in the program.
- We received a thank-you from Miss Mandarino for the donation of books to the media center.
- We received a thank-you from the teachers for the Michael Dooley assembly.

Principal's Report: Presented by Mr. Erck

- Thank-you to the PTO for the wonderful luncheon, everyone enjoyed it.

- Thank-you to Linda Marchesini for the pies, they were well enjoyed.
- **Schedule of Upcoming Events**
 - ❖ The end of year notice listing all upcoming activities and events will be sent home shortly.
 - ❖ The last two days of school, June 21st and June 22, there is a 1:15 dismissal. If any parents have any questions, please call.
 - ❖ There will be a SEL committee meeting on May 17th. The meeting will take place to discuss the “You Got Caught Learning” program that will be implemented for the next four weeks of school.
 - ❖ JFK was the winner of an ice-cream party for selling the most tickets to the Wayne Alliance basketball game. The ice-cream party will be held on June 21st.

Teacher’s Report: Presented by Mrs. Klein

- ❖ Thank-you to the PTO for the luncheon. The pies were delicious
- ❖ The Vincent van Gogh exhibit was really nice. Mrs. Kopacz did an amazing job. She taught the children “in-character” as Vincent van Gogh. The children were very quiet and very interested and really enjoyed the program. It was well worth the expense.

Committee Chair Reports

- ❖ **Teacher Appreciation Week:** Tammy Gotian reported that the week went great and was lots of fun. She was glad to hear that the teachers also enjoyed the week.

Old Business

- ❖ **Snack Sale:** Linda Marchesini reported that the snack sale was a big success. Next year she would like to see the snack sales take place on the ½ days that we have. This will make less work for the committee, as they will not have to break at 11 am for the lunch periods.

New Business

- ❖ **Baskin Robbins:** Karen Maron reported that Baskin Robbins night is Wednesday, May 19th. Once again Mr. Erck and the teachers will be scooping ice cream for the students. Baskin Robbins will donate 15% of all their sales between 5 pm – 8 pm to the PTO. In addition, Neil’s pizza will also participate and will donate 15% to the PTO for all JFK purchases. The PTO will be sending home a flyer about the event. Parents need to present Neil’s with a ticket from the bottom of the flyer about the event for the PTO to receive the credit.
- ❖ **Comedy Night:** Risa Rizzo reported that the PTO will hold a comedy night on February 17th, 2011 with Uncle Floyd at Portobello in Oakland, NJ. There will

be a 50/50 at the event but no tricky tray. A \$200.00 deposit is required to reserve Portobello.

- Risa Rizzo made a motion to put \$200.00 towards the deposit for Portobello for Comedy Night. The motion was seconded. The motion passed. \$200.00 will be put towards the deposit for Portobello.

- ❖ **Art Appreciation:** Linda Marchesini reported that the Art Show is scheduled for June 10th. Volunteers will be needed to help hang artwork that week. The Fifth Grade Band Concert is on April 29th.
- ❖ **Field Day:** Field day is scheduled for May 25th.
- ❖ **Fifth Grade Day:** Jackie Prince, Caroline Mastres and Linda Marchesini reported that they would like to have a caricature artist at Fifth Grade Day to make caricatures of the students to take home. The cost of the artist exceeds the budget and the question was put to the floor as to whether or not parents would consider paying \$10.00 per picture and the PTO would fund the balance of the cost from the budget. There was open discussion from the floor and parents agreed that asking for a \$10.00 fee was reasonable. The PTO will cover the entire cost of the caricatures for any hardship students who would like a caricature made. A flyer will be created and sent home for parents to pre-pay if they would like their child to have a caricature made.

Literacy By Design Presentation

- ❖ Dr. Sloan was scheduled to present the program prior to the start of our meeting; however, Dr. Sloan was unable to attend. Therefore, Mr. Erck suggested that he and Mrs. Klein present their portions of the reading program at the meeting. Mr. Erck introduced one of our fifth graders to tell about her experience with the vocabulary portion of the reading program. Mrs. Klein gave a 15 minute Power Point presentation detailing the day to day reading blocks, spelling, turn and talk, and other pertinent aspects of the program. There was a brief question and answer on the presentation.
- ❖ Mr. Erck addressed the group regarding the district's decision to have a one-year pilot of no traveling for 4th and 5th grades for 2010-2011 due to the incorporation of the Literacy by Design program into the curriculum. Several parents expressed their concerns about eliminating traveling such as: the ability of teachers to continue to provide quality instruction when elimination of traveling will result in 4th and 5th grade teachers who will have to learn a new reading program, a new science program and teach social studies; how traveling benefits kids in getting ready for middle school; how students will miss out on having the "experts" teaching their subjects; and the availability of teaching/demonstration materials, especially for science classes.
- ❖ It was mentioned that JFK does have one 4th grade and one 5th grade

teacher who have been teaching Literacy by Design for the past two years and they have successfully incorporated the Literacy by Design program with the travel program. It was asked if the teachers would have training in the subjects that they have not been teaching over the past few years. Mr. Erck reported that he did not know at this time.

❖ **EPIS Counselors**

- Questions were raised regarding the status of the elementary school EPIS counselors. In addition, parents were concerned about what the 4.5 positions will look like next year. Mr. Erck explained that his understanding is that there will be counselors with similar or better degrees in those positions, and that interns will assist them. The counselors may or may not be called EPIS counselors next year.

❖ **Windows**

- Due to the elimination of 4th grade windows, one parent asked about whether the classrooms would be grouped homogenously, according to academic ability. Mr. Erck reported that he is not aware of this happening.

Open Discussion

- ❖ There was no open discussion

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and was seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Attendance for May 12, 2010 Meeting:

Richard Erck
Ellen Klein
Leslie Fischgrund
Jackie Prince
Karen Marron
Linda Marchesini
Risa Rizzo
Caroline Mastres
Hillary Carusso
Jennifer Zeiger
Tammy Gotian
Denise DeSimon
Francine Cuciti
Premnath Rengasamy
Gayle DeNicola
Tracey Paylo
Rosemary Colella
Ann Marie Buzzelli
Joanne Puzzo