

# MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

## PTA Meeting Minutes

Mar 5, 2008 Meeting Called to Order at 7:33 pm.

**In attendance:** Valerie Forshaw, Peter Sullivan, Allison Karkut, Cindy Katske, Lori Hayes-O'Brien, Susan Gilson, Linda Bartolucci, Theresa Bulan, Regina Dougherty, Kathy Garzillo, Karin Martel, Kathy Pekera, Claire Weitzman, Jannise Castaldi, Dodi Hesse, Lynn Cammarota, Kate Donahue, Jill Bohn, Carol Elstein, Dina Sokol, Gayle Yakush

**Secretary's Report:** Motion made by Karin Martel to dispense with reading of minutes, seconded by Linda Bartolucci, unanimously approved. No changes or corrections.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** Mrs. Forshaw

**March is CMT Month** – Tests run from March 4 – 18 with one test per day lasting 45 – 90 minutes. This is the first year that Science will be a part of the testing for Grades 5 & 8. The first two days have gone smoothly.

**Valentines Day Dance** – all grades were combined. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade turnout was low. PTA is worried about apathy and hopes this isn't a trend. Several ideas were mentioned: getting student government involved in planning and giving kids more input; getting ideas and feedback from school counselors; karaoke, having a theme carried out in all classes during the day and culminating in a themed dance(s); DDR, Guitar Hero; American Idol.

**Book Fair** – was held during Primary Election Day. The PTA is considering holding this event before Christmas next year thereby enabling teachers, parents and kids to purchase holiday gifts.

**Jeopardy** – took place on Feb. 15. Will be shown on Ch. 17.

**Rain Forest Club** welcomed the Zoo mobile.

**KARE** – worked with the Salvation Army to provide weekend backpacks filled with food and clothing.

**Peers Welcoming Peers** – Mrs. Miller received a Grant for this group to welcome new students to our school. They would meet them at the start of their first day, show them around, have lunch with them and do what they could to make them feel welcomed and comfortable.

**Read Across America** – students in conjunction with the National Jr. Honor Society went to Bridgeport to read to the kids there, and donate books. Some of our students wrote their own books for the kids.

**Upcoming Events** – Western Regionals in March; Talent Show, NEOA, Mary Ronan, Grade 5 orientation Math Magic in April for Grades 6 & 7. See page 2 for more details on some of these events.

**ASST. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** Peter Sullivan:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester** - coming to an end on 3/17 with report cards coming about one week later. It had to be extended by 2 days due to snow. **March 11 another election for Bill Finch's Senate seat** will bring many people to the school.

**Spelling Bee:** Peter was a judge again. Many rounds passed before the first student went down. Daniel Welch was the winner.

**Cultural Diversity** - 6<sup>th</sup> grade tailored curriculum to study Africa with kids staying after school to make masks. Mardi Gras was celebrated by students dressing up as famous Spanish and French people and presenting to the staff. Displays are ongoing with Russia being up next.

**FACULTY REP REPORT:** Allison Karkut reported that Madison came in the top 10 out of 25 schools in **Math Counts**. 6th Grade **Jr. Achievement** will begin at the end of March with speakers coming to talk about the Global Economy. The **Franklin Institute** presented Forces & Motion which was well received by the 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders. **Art Horn presented weather** to the 7<sup>th</sup> graders. March 14 will be **Pi Day** with a school wide competition.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Theresa Bulan reported. Our balance is:

<b>Checking:</b>	<b>\$15,804.20</b>
<b>Savings:</b>	<b>47, 028.70</b>
<b>Total Accounts:</b>	<b>\$62,832.90</b>

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Recent Events:** See the principal's report on page 1.

**Magazine Drive** – Lynn Cammarota reported that she is still waiting for the final bill. The company's reporting mechanism is complicated and lengthy. Lynn is still getting phone calls about double magazine orders. She would like to get some 6 grade parents involved next year so they can learn the ropes and take over the following year. The committee will also be looking into using a different company next year.

**Cultural Committee:** Karin Martel reported for Naila Haroon that the flags were purchased and they are getting ready for the International Dinner to be held May 1.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Talent Show** – Rehearsals taking place March 12/13 with the show at end of month.

**NEOA – April 2** A discussion took place about opening this up to include the parents. Of concern is the capacity of the auditorium. Perhaps a better place to highlight this for the parents would be at a PTA Council meeting, open to ALL school's parents.

**8 Grade Lock-In – April 4** This is an action packed night that ends at midnight and includes many activity stations and fun things for the kids such as Karaoke, Lip Synching, an Obstacle Course, a DJ, Pizza and Ice Cream Sundaes etc.

**Mary Ronan on April 9** – Mary comes to speak to the kids about good decision making about drugs, alcohol and sex. In the past we had a special session in early AM for the parents. **PLEASE NOTE:** A parent's signature is required for their child to attend. There will be a special label on the Report Card envelopes for parents to sign.

**Ice Cream Social – May 21** still a nutritional issue.

**Other Committee Reports:**

**School Apparel:** Susan Gilson reported for Virginia Green. 43 orders were received in total. There may be 20 – 25 pieces left over (samples) that can be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

**Teacher Appreciation:** Linda Bartolucci reported that this committee will be meeting tomorrow. A flyer requesting parent donations of money and/or baked goods will be sent home in the Report Card envelope. Current treats planned are a breakfast, dessert day, massages. Two new ideas for making the day special for the teachers were suggested: lotto scratch tickets and a bone density test (something we all think about doing, but never get around to doing for ourselves).

**Publicity:** Cindy Katske reported for Cathy Hallas. There seems to be a more equitable representation in the Trumbull Times since the last meeting. The PTA is considering purchasing a Digital Camera which would be available for teachers to use to record events. This would come out of the “Gifts to School” section of the Budget.

**New Business:**

**Nominating Committee** – Kathy Pekera is looking for anyone interested in serving on the PTA board next year. Please reach out to any current 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents who may be active in their PTAs to see if they want to become involved. We currently need a President - Elect and a 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. The current secretary (Regina Dougherty) and current treasurer (Theresa Bulan) are willing to serve again if no one else steps forward. However, the by-laws would have to be amended to allow them to serve again. The slate needs to be presented at the next PTA meeting on May 7.

**Board of Finance Meeting – Sat. 10 am at Madison** Please attend, get informed, hear both sides, and state your case if you so wish. If you can't make it to the meeting, look for it on Channel 17 and/or call or email to make your opinions heard. The education budget is likely to be decreased, so parents should watch for PTA e-mails informing them of future opportunities to be heard.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:44 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: May 7, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.**