

Coventry Grammar School PTO Meeting Minutes December 11, 2007

Co-president Maria Tata called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Since there were guests from Robertson School, she introduced the CGS PTO board, Mr. Ray Grasso, and teacher representative, Ms. Terry Bitwinski. Maria then introduced the president of the GHR PTO who introduced her board and the principal of GHR, Mr. David Petrone.

Principal's Report: Mr. Ray Grasso

Mr. Grasso kept his comments brief in the interest of time. He welcomed friends from Robertson School and Mr. Dave Petrone in particular. He commented on how Dave is a wonderful support for him. One of the things Mr. Grasso loves about working with Mr. Petrone is that he is concerned about an excellent transition from second grade at CGS to third grade at GHR. Mr. Grasso expressed that it means a lot to him to know that the second graders will be well cared for and loved at GHR.

Teacher's Report: Ms. Terry Bitwinski

Ms. Bitwinski began her comments by letting everyone know that the Cultural Arts zoo show had to be rescheduled to January 7, due to a delayed opening. Additionally, a special show, Goowin's Balloowins, is scheduled for December 21. The children all enjoy this returning performer, who does wonderful feats with balloons.

Ms. Bitwinski thanked the PTO for keeping the bulletin board in the hallway updated. It is an excellent welcome to our school, she said.

Ms. Bitwinski asked parents to take special note of the last page of the monthly newsletters, "Building Readers." This special page of reading ideas is available because of the support of the PTO. One of the suggestions in this month's publication was to get a library card for your child. Ms. Bitwinski emphasized that this is a wonderful idea, and that the Booth and Dimock Library is an excellent library. She ended her comments by wishing everyone "Happy Holidays."

Acceptance of November 2007 Minutes: Sue Owens

Crissy Stinson made a motion to accept the November PTO Minutes. Denise Arisian seconded the motion, and it passed.

Treasurer's Report: Megan Nolan

This month's report shows that a check for \$4,500. was given to the Cultural Arts Committee to fund the performances at the school. This amount was previously approved at a PTO meeting.

Megan received a call from Mrs. Ronnie Kim, the school social worker, who requested money for the school's scholarship fund. This fund helps provide opportunities for students who otherwise would not be able to participate in field trips or school events due to the cost. The \$400. that the PTO contributed in the past lasted two years, but now the

fund is out of money. Crissy Stinson made a motion to provide \$400. for the scholarship fund. Doreen Hurley seconded the motion and it passed.

Committee Reports

Adopt A Family: Crissy Stinson

Crissy remarked that everything is going well. The school will be collecting items until Friday, December 14. Everyone has been so generous, so thank you very much, she said.

Movie Night: Michelle White

On Friday, December 14, The Polar Express will be shown in the CGS gym. Small bags of pretzels and water will be available. In lieu of an admission fee, the committee is requesting a donation of a non-perishable item for the food pantry. The movie will be given away as a door prize at the end of the evening.

Talent Show: Karen Bohr

Karen just wanted to let people know that the talent show is coming in January, and to keep it in mind. Student performers are needed, as well as volunteers to help run the show.

Old Business

Apples For Teachers: Doreen Hurley

A few apples with teachers' wishes were left on the tree. Doreen requested \$300. to purchase those remaining items, promising to spend less if possible. Denise Arisian made a motion to allocate \$300. for the apples left on the tree. Crissy Stinson seconded the motion and it passed.

Holiday Hush

Mr. Grasso reported on behalf of Lisa Sullivan and Lesley Dumais, who were unable to be present. Although there were a couple of late openings and time had to be made up due to the weather delays, Holiday Hush went well. One thing that Mr. Grasso appreciates about the company is that they replenish stock soon after they receive a call requesting more. Mr. Grasso remarked that Lisa and Lesley did a great job and it was very successful.

Craft Fair/PTO Bake Sale: Denise Arisian

Denise reported that the bake sale went well, and that many people were willing to bake. There was a small problem due to the fact that some room parents did not receive the notice requesting parents to bake. An additional notice was sent out to remedy the situation. A suggestion was made that having more large items such as whole cakes and pies would increase the profit for next year. There were lots of individual items that sold, but these are not large money makers.

Maria Tata reported that the craft fair made over \$10,000., which means a profit of over \$2,000. per school.

Robertson PTO News

The Robertson PTO board, staff, and principal reported on happenings at their school.

President Awards and Comments: Karen Bohr

Co-president Karen Bohr thanked Denise Arisian for her hard work on the bake sale and presented her with a gift of appreciation. She also expressed her appreciation for Nancy Francis, Laurie LaBrec, Deirdre McAvoy, and Fran Schenk, the group of ladies that was responsible for planning the craft fair.

Lesley Dumais and Lisa Sullivan were not able to be at the meeting, but Karen expressed her thanks for everything they did for Holiday Hush.

There were door prizes at each table, and six names were chosen to take a door prize home. The winners were: Jill Dominello, Donna Salad, Amber Culp, Monica Lessard, and Denise Arisian.

Maria Tata thanked everyone for coming. She commented that the Kids Fun Fair is coming up in March and that CGS was looking forward to working with GHR on that event. She then wished everyone "Happy Holidays," and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.