

GHR PTO Meeting - January 15, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

The minutes from the November 20, 2007 meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

\$9,052 - uncommitted

Principal's Report

A letter will go home to parents regarding the CMTs, which will begin on March 3. Special help is being given for third grade students who have been identified through DRA and base line math data, and help will also be given to fourth and fifth graders identified by prior CMT scores.

An after school art program will be offered - it will be taught by Barbara Timberman of the GHR staff, who is associated with the Community School of the Arts.

Priorities for Mr. Petrone's budget proposal (to be presented at a special Board of Ed meeting on January 29) are to retain current staff and add positions that have been lost in prior budget cycles; support the ABC curriculum project; add a .5 Challenge and Enrichment position; a World Language position; increase instrumental instruction from .6 to .8 (currently 115 band students). Mr. Petrone's goal is to keep our school competitive with schools in neighboring towns.

3rd grade - Mrs Emerson/Mrs. Bosco shared the following third grade [news](#): they will be testing students to see who is eligible for extra help prior to the CMT. Students should be choosing to read chapter books at this point in third grade. The third graders will now be recording their reading in their Planners. In Social Studies they are studying immigration and will take a field trip to the Windham Textile Museum.

4th grade - Mrs Hazard - \$2,729.56 raised in the walkathon and trick of treat for Unicef; pen pal activities ongoing through a diversity grant; mini math bees ongoing; Spring chorus has begun; and also review for CMTs.

5th grade - Mrs. Woodin - The fifth graders will be visiting the Science Museum; they are involved in the Dark Sky Project involving pen pals in Alaska and measuring light pollution; the penny challenge is coming up - proceeds to fuel bank; and CMT review will be happening, including Science and Social Studies, which is on the CMT.

Old Business

The Yankee Candle debacle was Yankee Candle's fault and not the fault of our volunteers. The paper cutter has been purchased, as well as a laminator. Furniture for the library will be purchased as voted on at a previous meeting. (Prior allocations include a computer chair for the computer room and tables for use at various events).

New Business

Karen Bohr, who is Chairperson for the Kid's Fair to be held on March 29 is looking for ideas for games for older kids, so please contact her if you have any. The Fair will include both gyms.

We are considering having a trip to a Rock Cats game in the Spring if there is interest.

There will be another Walkathon in the Spring - funds raised will go one half to the PTO and one half to CCMC - oncology unit (as was done last year.) We may have T-shirts made and are considering a particular DJ, who played at the Holiday Dance at the Middle School in December. We are looking for a volunteer to Chair this event.

Allocation was moved and seconded and all in favor to purchase walkie talkies to be used between the office and playground at recess to address safety concerns. Up to \$300 allocated; up to \$5,600 was moved and seconded and all in favor to purchase white boards for every classroom.

Patty Choiniere will be sending home in backpacks a list of important budget dates of which parents should be aware coming up between now and May.

It was also suggested that parents and town officials be made aware of the purchases that have been made by the PTO over the past few years. There are many items that have been purchased, not through the school budget, but through the PTO and by parents, for example, the computers in the computer lab.

We continue to earn funds from Boxtops - \$350 recently - and also \$90 from the Festival of Giving.

There was a question as to whether students are sharing textbooks and the answer was "no". Each student has their own textbook, for example, in math.

There was a question about fifth graders having to sit in assigned seats at lunch. This has to do with behavior and also trying to help students who may sit alone not feel isolated. The point was made that students who behave are being affected negatively by the behavior of a few. Mr. Petrone will consider this going forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Riordan
Secretary