



## General Meeting Minutes for the 2009 – 2010 Academic School Year

February 9, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.

AMS Library

PTA Members in attendance: 9

Co-Presidents: Gillian Smith  
Jennifer Boucher  
Vice President: Denise Alderson  
Secretary: Sharon Campbell  
Treasurer: Michele Donoghue  
Board Member at Large: Gretchen Pyles

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **President's Report**

- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance

### **Secretary's Report**

The minutes from the January 2010 meeting were reviewed at the meeting. The first motion to accept was by Ellen Roos-Unger, Karen Oates seconded the motion. The January 2010 meeting minutes were accepted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the Treasurer's report regarding the January 2010 financials were reviewed at the meeting and copies were available to all that were present. Sharon Campbell moved to accept the financials for January as presented and this motion was seconded by Gail Jordan. The January 2010 financials were accepted as presented.

### **Principal's Report**

***Porter Dodge ~ Amherst Middle School – was unable to attend the meeting***

***Gerry St. Amand ~ Clark-Wilkins School***

- Late start activities this month focused on additional training in differentiated instruction and Bloom's Taxonomy by the Clark-Wilkins "DI" coaches.
- Valentine's Day parties will take place at both schools on Friday, February 12, 2010. In the event of inclement weather, Valentine's Day parties will not be made up on Tuesday, February 16, but students will have the opportunity to exchange valentines.

- Fall 2009 NECAP scores have been received and results will be sent home to families of third and fourth graders in the near future. Overall, students made progress in both mathematics and reading.
- In conjunction with the 2010 Winter Olympics, Clark-Wilkins students and staff members will be researching countries and athletes who participate in this year's Olympiad. Mock "Opening Ceremonies" will take place in the morning at Wilkins on Friday, February 12, 2010.
- Congratulations to our National Geographic Geography Bee winner—Ben Carnick—and our Scripps Spelling Bee winner—Nicholas Garcia.
- Remember to check the SAU#39 web page at [www.sprise.com](http://www.sprise.com) for any information regarding delayed openings, early dismissals or school cancellations.
- Clark-Wilkins administrators are in the process of collecting applications for the position of after school teachers to support at-risk students in grades two, three and four in mathematics. These positions will be funded with Title I grants.
- Eileen Kalinowski has joined the ranks of the staffs at Clark-Wilkins in the role of half-time mathematics specialist to support at-risk students in Kindergarten and Grade One. This position is funded with a Title One grant.

### **School Board Report**

#### **❖ Rob Graybill, School Board Representative**

Here is a brief overview of what Rob discussed:

- Updates and overview on the school budget projecting for next year, with a thank you to the administration for their help in scrubbing the budget
- Bus concerns are being addressed, a review of security procedures in school was done and it was evident the schools were doing a good job
- Race to the Top stimulus money has been applied for via a submitted grant request
- Asked for support by voting Yes on March 9 on school board articles
- A request was made for information on the placement process of students going from Wilkins to AMS, Rob will get back to us when there will be a board meeting on this so you can go or watch on television

### **Committee Chair Reports**

**Bellringer** ~ All items for February Bellringer are due by February 15<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!

**Curriculum Enrichment** ~ **Clark** – Gretchen Pyles update: Steve the Science Guy is coming in April, Mr. and Mrs. Fish are coming in May, and Wildlife Encounters is coming in June; **AMS** – no new updates  
**Wilkins** – no new updates

**Family Math Night** ~ Karen Oates gave an update on a very successful Math Night, a much higher than anticipated turn out! There were 236 children, 191 adults. There were also approximately 30 student volunteers from AMS and several more from the high school, along with about 20 parent and teacher volunteers total. Of the children, 150 actually signed in (in one form or another!). We asked the K-4 students to sign in and list grade and teacher - that is how we are getting their certificates of participation to them. The additional 86 children were probably older and younger siblings, as far as we

can tell, but some K-4 students may not have signed in. We are sending in some extra certificates to the teachers for students who attended, but for some reason did not get on our list. We got an interesting write-up in the Milford Cabinet, and several of us saw Cliff Ann Wales from the Citizen as well. If there is any other information you need, please let me know. Beth Hall and Deanna Zell are the co-chairs, and we had tremendous support (as you heard) from Clark-Wilkins administration and teachers.

**Family Science Night** ~ request for promo signs to be used at this and other events, can use budget to purchase signs, Jane Soddors to work with Michele on this

**Hospitality** ~ is going well, a lot of volunteers have contributed to success at events

**Membership** ~ no new updates

**Original Art/ Art to Remember** ~ \_Leslie Yingling Bennett reported in January via e-mail as follows: The Art to Remember program offers parents the opportunity to have their children's own artworks reproduced on a variety of quality items that make ideal gifts for friends and family. Based on feedback from families in 2009, we have pushed the timing of the program later in the spring. This year we are also striving to implement a process that will offer parents of all children in grades K-4 the option to order items created from art produced at school; plus an alternative to create additional or replacement projects at home. Kate Geskos and Leslie Bennett – the co-chairs—have been working closely with the Art to Remember Company to finalize the process for 2010. ...we are scheduled to kick off the program with the students in March...We anticipate that all keepsakes that are ordered from Art to Remember will be completed and returned in time for mother's day, father's day and grandparent's day. More details will follow. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to call or write the Committee co-chairs, Leslie Bennett (672-4865; [leslieyingling1@aol.com](mailto:leslieyingling1@aol.com)) or Kate Geskos (672-0977; [kgeskos@comcast.net](mailto:kgeskos@comcast.net)).

**PTA Play** – Play is well underway, spread the word for ticket sales. Gail Jordan, who is in charge of the Playbill, shared that sponsorship and advertisement deadline is March 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Staff Appreciation** ~ no new updates

**Reflections** ~ shared information sent via Shelly Kayser and Wendy Conway of the 124 students' works of art that were on display. The State Exhibit and awards ceremony will be held on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Gilbert Hood Middle School in Derry NH from 6-8pm, snow date is following evening. Thank you to Casual Cat for donating the picture mats for the photos. After several successful years of chairing this event, Shelly and Wendy are interested in finding two new co-chairs to take over this phenomenal program and are very willing to help with the transition to the new co-chairs. if you or someone you know are interested, please contact them or a PTA Board Member, there is a lot of room for creativity in tailoring the program for how you may see it and/or manage it.

### **New Business**

- PTA Board to plan on upcoming meeting (potentially April) to have Porter Dodge and Gerry St. Amand talk about the transition of and placement of 4<sup>th</sup> graders from Wilkins to 5<sup>th</sup> grade at AMS and how the placement is determined
- Town of Amherst Recreation Commission spoke about Article 24, discussion was held regarding potential pros and cons, for more information visit [www.amherstrec.org](http://www.amherstrec.org)
- Meeting venue up for discussion, thoughts on moving back to Wilkins for General Meetings, please let the Board know your thoughts
- Kathy Duschene proposed idea for Foodplay performance in schools that makes healthy eating and active lifestyles a fun educational program for kids in K-5, this is under consideration based on cost as well as value to schools, and consideration of school schedules already in place for year end
- Next meeting on March 9th, guest speaker Jean Rogers author of *Kids Under Fire – Seven Simple Steps to Combat the Media Attack on Your Child*, this is a free event that is usually held for a fee, will also be offering a follow up workshop for those interested, details to be given at the

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made by Michele Donoghue to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm, and the motion was seconded by Gail Jordan.

Submitted by:

*Sharon Campbell*

Secretary

Next Meeting: March 9, 2010 @ 7 p.m. AMS