



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

September 15, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

AMS Library

PTA Members in attendance: 26

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
- ❖ Introduction of everyone in attendance

### New Business

- ❖ A motion to take a vote for the following board positions for the 2009 – 2010 academic school year was accepted. All PTA members, including Executive Board Members were all in favor and accepted the votes for:
  - **Gillian Smith**, Co-President
  - **Jennifer Boucher**, Co-President
  - **Denise Alderson**, Vice President / Public Relations
  - **New Board position**: Board Member at Large (this will allow an additional Board Member to be able to assist and step in as needed, understand and learn the different positions of the Board, and be able to step in to fulfill a role if a Board member is unable to continue through the balance of the school year for any reason)
  - **Gretchen Pyles**, Board Member at Large

### Secretary's Report

The minutes from the May 2009 meeting (last meeting of 2008-2009 academic school year) were reviewed at the meeting. Sharon Campbell requested a motion to receive the minutes. Ellen Roos-Unger moved to accept the minutes. Dorothea Daniels seconded the motion. The May 2008 – 2009 minutes were accepted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the Treasurer's report for May, June, July and August 2009 financials were reviewed at the meeting and copies were available to all that were present. Ellen Roos Unger requested a motion to accept the financials for May and a second motion was made by Gillian Smith to accept. Cheryl Forster requested a motion to accept the June financials and a second motion was made by Jane Soddors to accept. Dorothea Daniels requested a motion to accept the financials for July and a second motion was made by Susan Morley Zimmer to accept. Cheryl Forster requested a motion to accept the financials for August and a second motion was made by Theresa White to accept.

Michele Donoghue reviewed the 2009 – 2010 Budget at the meeting, copies were made available to all attendees. 2 new additions to the fundraising for 2009 – 2010 were added for a Silent Auction and a Circus (subject to approval by the schools). Changes to the budget were reviewed by Michele based on last year results, new requests, and changes approved by the Board. Leslie Bennett requested a motion to receive the 2009 – 2010 academic school year budget and a second motion was made by Shannon Chandlee.

### **Principal's Report**

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

First 10 days of schools have gone smoothly, with students, teachers and families making a great adjustment to the school schedule.

Buses are now arriving in a more timely and regular manner, which helps in setting up an efficient and safe arrival and dismissal.

All students in grades K to 4 are being administered DIBELS – Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills – to assess pre-reading and reading levels.

Clark-Wilkins has been selected as a pilot site for the DIBELS mathematics assessment in grades K and 1. There is no charge to the district or schools for being part of this pilot study.

Administration of the computerized NWEA – Northwest Evaluation Assessment – in grade two and with new students in grades three and four will be delayed until later in September to allow NWEA to upload all of our student data.

NECAP – New England Common Assessment program – testing in grades three through eight will be administered during the first three weeks of October in grades 3 through 8 in reading and mathematics. Additionally, fifth and eighth students take a writing assessment.

NECAP is the assessment that determines whether or not schools make AYP – Adequate Yearly Progress.

Clark-Wilkins will be conducting a community "Open House" on Sunday, October 4, 2009 to showcase the renovations at both schools to the community.

The Clark-Wilkins RTI – Response to Intervention – Team has begun meeting with grade level teachers to review all available data on our students to determine which students will need additional support services in reading, mathematics, or behavior.

The RTI Team will begin with fourth grade staff members and work our way down the grade levels with this review and intervention process.

Adjustments have been made to the Kindergarten schedule so that all students will continue to have a two –and-a-half hour instructional day, preceded or followed by a fifteen minute recess.

Staff members in grades one through four will also be meeting regularly throughout September to discuss ideas and options surrounding movement breaks, social snack, and potential additional recess time.

Our plan is to inform the ASB at the October 8 meeting of our “recess-movement break” proposal for the balance of the year.

All students in grades one through four should be receiving homework at least three to four times per week. Grade level teachers are meeting to coordinate types of assignments and continuity from class to class.

The September 8<sup>th</sup> In-service Day provided staff members with the opportunity to focus on goals they would like to work on in small groups that target areas where the staff members can access data to evaluate areas where they see a need for improvement.

Wilkins School had its first “emergency drill” on Monday, September 14, 2009 and all staff members and students responded well.

### ***Porter Dodge ~ Amherst Middle School***

Absent. No Report.

### **School Board Report**

**Rob Graybill** attended the General Meeting as the School Board for SAU#39 PTA Representative and discussed the following:

- ❖ On behalf of the school board, wanted to recognize Jim Miner for the amazing job of renovations and getting the schools open. Jim and his crew delivered on schedule and under budget.
- ❖ The last School Board meeting had a great turnout, and they encourage attendance. The hot topic was recess, and the parents who spoke were impassioned and eloquent, and on behalf of the board thank you to the parents. It is important to find the balance, a compromise solution

was reached for Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> are still under discussion but some extended time at lunch has been given.

- ❖ On behalf of the School Board: Thank you to the PTA for the generous donations for last year's grants and donations.

### **Committee Chair Reports**

**Bellringer** ~ There is no January Bellringer so keep in mind the deadlines for material that needs to go in before or after.

**Book Fair** ~ This will be in the spring with the Writing Festival

**Curriculum Enrichment** ~ Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – Wingmasters is coming back this year for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Family Information Night** ~ Jane Soddors reported there were almost 30 vendors, different clubs and businesses that participated. It was hard to get a count of those coming through, 60 – 70 did the raffle but she feels that was a small amount. Thank you to Patti for making the calls. There was a question raised if it was ok for home schools to come, and should they be invited to come next year. Next year the focus will be on publicity of Family Information Night, because it is so early it is tough to piggyback on other communications. Jane wanted to also publicly thank all of the vendors that donated gift certificates and prizes for the raffle, Jane and Patti will do formal thank yous.

**Family Math Night** ~ Collecting new materials, Monday night Feb 1 will be K – 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Tues night Feb 2 will be 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. There is a good list of volunteers.

**Family Science Day** ~ For this hands on science day they can always use ideas for experiments to think of & try! There will be a theme for the day (to be determined) and a 2 hour session in the a.m., 2 hour session in the p.m.

**Holiday Story Time** ~ sent via email from Cathy in their absence: Holiday Story time committee will have their first meeting at Cathy Leighton's house on Wed Oct 28th from 9Am to 11 AM if anyone is interested. Contact us with any questions at [cmleighton@comcast.net](mailto:cmleighton@comcast.net) or [lisa\\_mazur@hotmail.com](mailto:lisa_mazur@hotmail.com).

**Magazine Drive** – Susan Shaw, Gillian Smith and Jennifer Boucher met with ASP on the program, and they have made some changes to the quality of the prize offerings and to help increase participation and a chance to win. There will also be a ramp up of the online program as well as with the postcards. Dates are Sept 25 Wilkins, Oct 5 AMS, 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have the week after they get back.

**Membership** – tried a new push over the summer and got 80 members but it was a large effort to track. Right now over 412 members, 620 last year, would like to meet or exceed last year. Focus on education on what we do, what we give back to schools, e.g. the grants, curriculum enrichment. Sept 25<sup>th</sup> is the membership deadline for the directory, but we want to encourage new members all year. Dorothea Daniels was the winner of a \$50 gift card from the drawing, there were still 2 more teachers to draw. The proof reading of the directory was targeted to be done by the end of September / early October, target for sending home by Halloween. Cheryl to set up and update the OMDR.

**Original Art** – fundraiser in Spring, kids bring the Art in to order key rings, etc. This year the kids may have the option of using art from school or creating something at home.

**PTA Play** – this year’s play is Children of Eden, auditions will start in January so keep your eye on the Bellringer!

**Staff Appreciation** –this year, staff appreciation will be combined under one chair for ease of coordination.

**Reflections** – This year’s them will be “Beauty is...”.

**Adjournment**

Motion was made by Gillian Smith to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm, and the motion was seconded.

Submitted by:

*Sharon Campbell*

Secretary

**Next Meeting: October 13, 2009 @ 7 p.m. AMS Cafeteria**

*Contact Information*

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