



General Meeting Minutes for the 2011-2012 Academic School Year

October 11, 2011

Wilkins Library

September 2011 Minutes

PTA Members in attendance: 20

President: Sara Derushia
Co-Vice Presidents: N/A
Secretary: Sandra Carbery/Sharon Fredette
Treasurer: Michele Donoghue
Member at Large: N/A

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

President's Report

- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance
- ❖ Sara read in the financials for July 2011. Motion to accept Porter Dodge; 2nd Cheryl Forester
- ❖ Sara read in the financials for August 2011. Motion to accept Porter Dodge; 2nd Denise Alderson
- ❖ Sara read in the budget for the upcoming 2011-2012 year. Motion to accept Porter Dodge; Kathy Duschenes 2nd

Vice President's Report: Carvn Starace

No report, V.P., absent

Treasure's Report

- Michele read in the financials for June 2011. Motion to accept Porter Dodge; 2nd Sandra Carbery.

Secretary's Report

- Approved minutes from June 2011 meeting. Motion to accept Porter Dodge, 2nd Denise Alderson.
- Nominating committee put forth the following candidates; Sharon Fredette/Secretary, Gillian Smith/Vice President, Cheryl Kohlenberger/Treasurer

- Motion to vote in new members 1st Saundra Carbery 2nd Porter Dodge

Superintendent – Peter Warburton

- Introduction. Discussed educational and administrative background.
- Talked about the new Pre-K program, the math initiative and AMS literacy movement.
- Revisiting the hourly school calendar versus the 180 day calendar. Discussed *blizzard bag* alternative.

Principal's Report

Porter Dodge ~ Amherst Middle School

- Small decline in AMS population (767 kids)
- Parent coffees held week of Sept. 6
- AMS Open House held on Sept 13
- The new math initiative program headed by Professor Mahesh Sharma is a big success.
- Michele Donahue initiated discussion and expressed frustration with the Extra Math Program. Porter will look into it. Supplemental learning at home reinforced by Porter.

Gerry J. St. Amand ~Clark-Wilkens School

- Clark-Wilkens School currently has 632 students enrolled, in line with our projected enrollment of 630.
- School Picture Day will take place on Wednesday, September 28 2011, but will be rescheduled if inclement weather occurs, since our photographer specializes in outside photography.
- The Fall 2011 administration of the reading and mathematics New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) will begin during the week of October 3, 2011 and will be administered to all third and fourth grade students.
- The Northwest Evaluation Assessment (NWEA), a computerized tool that assesses student instructional level in reading and mathematics and which is administered via computer, is being administered to all second grade students through early October.
- Open House evenings on September 20 and September 21 were tremendous successes.
- All grade level, special subject, and special education teachers have developed tentative annual goals related to student learning that will be finalized during the next two weeks.
- Mahesh Sharma, our mathematician in residence, has conducted extensive professional development with staff during the week of September 19 and will return in mid-November for additional sessions.
- Seventy-two (72) percent of last year's fourth graders at Wilkins achieved at the proficient level or higher on the May 2011 administration of the Science NECAP; a

level significantly above the state level and an increase over our performance in previous years.

- Please extend a warm welcome to Colleen McCarthy, our new technology educator; Barbara Carpenter—our new preschool teacher; and Judy Blood—our new music teacher at Clark School.

School Board Report –Lucienne Foulks

- Discussed School Board goals for 2011-12
- Visited new preschool at Clark School. Met with Barbara Carpenter, head preschool teacher.
- Math enrichment a priority to the board.
- Mahesh Sharma’s talk @ Clark was videotaped and is on the Amherst Channel

Committee Chair Updates

Attic Resources: Laura Taylor

Bellringer & PR: Lisa Eastland

Bookfair: **OPEN**

CE CLARK: Gretchen Pyles

CE CLARK

CE WILKINS: Carol Wold

CE AMS: Ruth Infanti & Kim Farnham

Chunky’s Fundraiser: Sheryl Blevins and Paula Marie Passen

Family Math Night: Karen Oates and Jane Soddors

Grants: Anna Rego

GRANTS

Grow Ums: Cathy Duchesne

Holiday Story Time: Kirsten Vernon

Hospitality: Kirsten Vernon

Membership/Directory: Denise Alderson and Carrie Patel

On-line Auction: Gillian Smith – Teachers; and Sharon Fredette - Corporate

Original Arts: Gail Jordon and Diane Manning

Playbill: **OPEN**

Play Producers: Jackie O’Dowd & Rita Piotrowski with Director Roger Hurd to present OKLAHOMA!

Website: Jay Cohen

Reflections: Eileen Peters

Fashion Show: **OPEN**

General Notes

- Grow Ums Fundraiser – Cathy Duchesne presented new fundraiser to begin sometime in the Spring.
- Membership: Denise Aldersen discussed membership and interactive globe initiative.
- Original Art: To include AMS this year.
- Cherina Cohen discussed volunteer opportunities at Clark-Wilkens
- PTA Play – Director, Roger Hurd discussed this year’s PTA Play production, OKLAHOMA. Still in need of a corporate sponsor or a private donation.

Motion was made by Sara Derushia to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm, and Sandra Carbery 2ND the motion.

Submitted by:
Sharon Fredette
Secretary