



General Meeting Minutes for the 2010-2011 Academic School Year

November 9, 2010

Wilkins Cafeteria

PTA Members in attendance: 12

President: Sara Derushia
Co-Vice Presidents: Caryn Starace & Denise Alderson
Secretary: Sandra Carbery
Treasurer: Michele Donoghue
Member at Large: Barbara Baum
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

President's Report

- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance
- ❖ There will be no December meeting.

Cathy Duschene of Kids Culinary Arts is going non-profit and will be joining us for the January meeting. Cathy will be bringing snacks.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the October 2010 meeting were reviewed at the meeting. Motion to accept was made by Michele Donoghue and Porter Dodge seconded the motion. The October 2010 meeting minutes were accepted.

Absent Committee Chair reports:

Jen Boucher/ Holiday Story Time

To date we have Porter Dodge, Ellen Grudzien of the Amherst Preschool, Darcie Sylvia, co-owner of Little Einsteins Preschool, Sara Hydorn children's room at The Amherst Town library, and Josh Judge, Meteorologist at WMUR 9 coming to read to the children of Amherst. There is room for one more reader.

Leigh Ann Evans/ Staff Appreciation

She did Staff Appreciation for all three schools. Clark and Wilkins on 9/28 and 9/30 and AMS on 10/27. It was mostly fruit but some sugar cookies as well.

Vice President's Report

- Holiday Story Time will be held on Friday December 10th 6:30 – 7:30 pm in the Wilkins Multi-purpose room.

Treasure's Report

- September and October Budget Approval
- September motion to accept made by Porter Dodge 2nd by Sandra Carbery
- October motion to accept by Porter Dodge, 2nd by Jay Cohen

Principal's Report

Porter Dodge ~ Amherst Middle School

- We wrapped up a successful fall sports season with banquets the week of October 25th. Boys soccer went to the playoffs, Girls soccer won class 1 championships, Girls Field Hockey were runners up in the D2 championship. Cross country state champions and tri-county championship for the girls team.
- Basketball season is set to begin with the first games scheduled for next week- Thursday November 18th.
- Sixth Grade environmental school was postponed to the week of November 15. We thank parents for all the support they have given us over our decision not to go to Camp Cody. Students and staff are excited about visiting Camp Jewell In Colebrook CT. Camp Jewell is a much more modern facility and is better able to meet our needs. Porter will be going up for the 1st day of camp.
- Project Safeguard provided another worthwhile and informative experience for our 7th graders and their parents on Oct. 22nd.
- Thank you to the PTA staff Appreciation committee for their fabulous treats on October 27th!
- Spirit week was the week of Oct.27th, culminating with the Halloween dance and social on Friday Oct.29th.
- PTA Magazine Drive kicked off here last Friday; our first collection day was yesterday. We would like to thank Susan Shaw for all her efforts on behalf of the PTA.
- Picture Re-take day is tomorrow for AMS students
- We have a dance scheduled for 11/12 for 6th-8th graders.
- Parent Conferences will be held Thursday evening from 5-8pm on Nove.18 and on Nov. 19 after our 11 am early release. Sixth grade parent conferences will be re-scheduled for later in the month.
- On 11/19 our 7th graders have been invited to go to SHS to attend the dress rehearsal for "The Diary of Anne Frank"
- Items for the PTA on-line auction will be picked up at AMS on Sunday 11/21 in the morning and in the evening of 11/23 and 11/24. Annual Lions Fair will be held at AMS on Saturday, 12/4 from 9am -3pm.
- OxFam project starts on 12/20. The 7th Grade researches a non-profit and reports on it.
- Late starts and no school days are very important for teachers and staff. These days are used for staff development.
- Happy Thanksgiving to all! School recess is 11/24 – 11/26.

Gerry St. Amand ~ Clark-Wilkins

- First quarter report cards will go home with all students in grades one through four on Friday, November 19, 2010.

- Kindergarten students will not receive report cards until the end of second quarter in January 2011, but teachers will be conducting conferences throughout the months of November and December.
- Friday, November 19, 2010 is an early release day for all Clark-Wilkins students, with dismissal beginning at noon. Lunch will be served, but students will not be required to eat.
- As part of our focus on mathematics as an area of professional growth, our November 9 “Late Start” focused on a wide range of mathematics and thinking games that can help to improve a wide range of thinking and curricular skills.
- During our nine “Late Starts”, New Morning—the Clark-Wilkins before and after school child care provider, offers child care at Wilkins School at no charge to families between 7:15 and 10:15 A.M. Families simply need to register their children with “New Morning” to participate in this service.
- An SAU-wide “Wellness Committee” has begun meeting this year, with a plan to spread the work of this group out to building specific groups as the year progresses. Danielle Collins, the new Food Services director for SAU#39, serves as the chairperson of this committee.
- The Amherst School District will hear the Draft One proposal of the Fiscal Year 2012 budget at the meeting that has been rescheduled to Tuesday, November 30, 2010.

School Board Report

- ❖ ***Rob Graybill, School Board Representative***
- ❖ Rob reports that it is a tough season ahead of the School Board. There have been uncontrollable increases in health and dental as well as retirement.
- ❖ Pre-school to incorporate special needs kids into the school system. Board is putting forth a proposal. The likely-hood of this program depends on the volume of students.
- ❖ Superintendent search is underway.
- ❖ Contract negotiations are underway. Currently teachers are not under new contract and are working under their grandfathered contracts.
- ❖ The school calendar is moving from a day basis to a minute basis. A survey was sent out for initial feedback. Rob will research what that feedback was.

Committee Chair Reports

Family Science Day- Jane Soddors

Low attendance. The age group seemed very young. Maybe a survey to get input into how to improve is needed. Gerry and Jen Eccleston heavily pushed math night and they had a large turn out. Trying to get Science coordinator involved might help. Possibility of opening up activities to

5th graders to improve turnout. Thank you going out in Bellringer. Only spent half the budget.

Membership:

Everything on-line. “Just Between Friends” program. Use your PTA membership card for an I-party discount.

On-Line Auction: Gillian Smith and Jay Cohen

Auction Stats:

98 Registered Users

9 Users who didn't complete the registration process (despite being sent multiple requests to complete... Scott Derusia is one... So it's not a big deal since Sara did.)

197 Total Live Auctions (about 12 of them are 'donate now' auctions)

1453 bids have been processed by the site so far

1042 hits on 11/1 – the slowest day this month

5497 hits on 11/5 – busiest day this month so far

Average of about 3200 hits PER day

We've been accessed by PC's, Macs, cell phones as well – Droid, HTC and iPhones too.

Assuming things ended now, we'd make \$2636.32

Some feedback: the auction is too long. More pictures and better descriptions are needed.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Sara Derushia to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm, and Sandra Carbery seconded the motion.

Submitted by:

Sandra Carbery

Secretary

Next Meeting to be determined, January 2011