

**Amherst PTA General Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008  
*Fifth Meeting of the 2007-2008 Academic Year*  
*Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2008*

**PTA BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

President: Krista Hanks  
Vice-President: Christine Poisson  
Secretary: Kristin Gaughan  
Treasurer: Anna Rego  
Absent: Beth Hurd  
Eileen Peters

**PTA MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 13**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm.

**Secretary's Report**

The committee chairs received copies of the January minutes via e-mail a week prior to the meeting. Copies were also available at the meeting. The January minutes were reviewed. Kristin Desborough moved to accept the minutes. Ellen Roos-Unger seconded the motion. The January minutes were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the Treasurer's report were passed out for review. Anna Rego reported that the magazine drive is still bringing in money. The January financial statement was read. Porter Dodge moved to accept the January statement. Jil Romano seconded the motion. The January financial statement was approved.

**Principal's Report**

**Clark / Wilkins – Gerry St. Amand**

There was no report.

**AMS – Porter Dodge**

- On February 21, the winners from the magazine drive will be "dressing" Porter and Deb Martel.
- February 20<sup>th</sup> is the Wells Public Speaking Finals.
- NELMS, the New England League of Middle Schools, is doing their evaluation of AMS. It is using a rubric to compare AMS to other middle schools in New England.
- NEWA Testing is being done for grades 4 – 6 in math. This will provide another data point to compare the results from the fall.
- NECAP results are released. The school did very well although didn't make the adequate yearly progress. There were deficiencies in special education and economically disadvantaged. Credit needs to be given to parents and teachers for the growth in proficiency and proficiency with distinction.
- The AMS Drama Club will be presenting *High School Musical* on March 6 – 8.

## **School Board**

There was no report.

## **Grant Committee**

Kristin Desborough reported that for his share of the Fall Principal's Grant, Porter Dodge will be spending the money on books for students with learning disabilities. These books will be able to supplement all students learning. The grant includes a book truck to store the books. The final portion of the grant will be allotted for safety vests for the emergency management team.

A breakdown of the monies is as follows:

Books Total:	\$1418.41
Booktruck Total:	\$ 324.16
Safety vests Total:	<u>\$ 245.90</u>
Total:	\$1988.47

The AMS Fall Principal's Grant was approved.

## **New Business**

Krista Hanks reported on two upcoming PTA programs.

- A public forum to discuss the school renovations will be held on March 4, 2008, at 7.00pm at Wilkins. This will provide an opportunity to answer last minutes questions one week prior to the vote.
- John Smith and Mike Knox are coordinating an Internet Safety program on March 3, 2008, at 7.00pm at the Souhegan High School Auditorium. The course is geared toward parents of students from elementary school through high school and will discuss a range of safety issues.

## **Committees**

### **Bellringer**

The *Bellringer* is the Amherst PTA's monthly publication and it comes out electronically. The deadline for the March issue is February 15<sup>th</sup>. Submissions should be made to Ellen Roos-Unger at: [ellenbr68@alumni.umass.edu](mailto:ellenbr68@alumni.umass.edu).

### **Curriculum Enrichment**

Carol Hopfenspirger provided this update. In Grade 7, Patti MacDonald has taken a full time job and can no longer do CE. Carol has taken over for her. This is what is scheduled:

Justin Mazimbaka: Rwanda presentation on February 13  
White Mountain Group: Observing Our Weather on February 21  
Living Voices: Anne Frank and the Holocaust on March 19

In Grade 6, presentations scheduled include Chariots of the Sun/Greek Mythology on January 6 and the Acton Discovery Museum presentation on the Changes in Matter on February 19 – 21.

The specialists have requested a program from the New England Brass at both AMS and Wilkins.

## **Reflections**

Shelly Kayser reported that 152 entries were submitted for this year's Reflections program. All six categories were represented, and the ceremony was well-attended. 34 of those are moving on to the State level which will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6.30 – 8.30pm at the Derry Middle School. Next year's theme is "Wow."

## **PTA Playbill**

In Denise Jacobs' absence, Krista Hanks reported that the mailing has already gone out to prior advertisers and she has already received some positive response. Forms for ads and sponsorships can be found in the February and March Bellringers, as well as on the PTA website. The deadline is Friday March 14.

## **Original Art**

Sharon Rohlf reported that they have been in the classrooms helping the students create some wonderful pieces of artwork for this year's fundraiser. Packets will be going home after February vacation. She will be including extra pieces of paper to encourage family members to submit artwork. Sharon stressed that each individual piece of art needs to include its own order form. All products are currently on display in the front foyer at Wilkins.

## **Chili Cook-Off**

The annual Chili Cook-off was held on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at AMS. Christine Poisson reported that the event was well attended and drew a larger than expected crowd. The crowd was entertained by the AMS Jazz Band, Robert Allwarden and Purgatory Falls. Cheryl Arsenault and her committee did a wonderful job executing the event. This committee is looking for a new chair for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

## **Adjournment**

- The next PTA meeting will be in Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 7.30pm in the Wilkins Library.
- Jil Romano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ellen Roos-Unger seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8.30pm.

Submitted by

Kristin Gaughan  
Secretary