

**Amherst PTA General Meeting Minutes**  
Tuesday, March 13, 2007  
*Sixth Meeting of the 2006-2007 Academic Year*  
*Next Meeting: April 10, 2007*

**PTA BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Co-Presidents: Beth Hurd  
Secretary: Kristin Gaughan  
Advisor: Kristin Desborough  
Absent: Eileen Peters  
Krista Hanks  
Anna Rego

**PTA MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 15**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7.35pm.

**Secretary's Report**

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

**Vice President's Report**

Thanks to the hard work of Denise Jacobs and the Playbill committee, several playbill advertisers have offered items to use as prizes for a fundraising raffle. The most significant prize is a gift certificate to Stowe Meadows Lodge in Stowe, Vermont. This fabulous prize includes overnight accommodations at the Stowe Meadows Lodge, complimentary arrival cocktails for two, dinner for two and breakfast for two, valued at more than \$400.

Ticket sales for the raffle began today. Chris Janson, producer for *Fiddler on the Roof*, is selling both tickets to the play and raffle tickets at the polls this afternoon and this evening. Other sales venues are being looked at. Tickets for the raffle cost \$1.00 for one ticket, \$5.00 for 6 tickets, and \$10.00 for 20 tickets. All tickets sold in advance of the play will be for the Stowe Meadows Gift Certificate. Purchase of a play ticket is not required and the winner does not need to be present at the time of the drawing. The winner will be drawn at the final *Fiddler on the Roof* show on Sunday, April 15. At the play, there will also be a Chinese Raffle featuring the other items donated. A list of prizes should appear in the upcoming Bellringer. Tickets for the Chinese Raffle will only be available for purchase at the play.

We are looking for a volunteer to oversee sales of the tickets at the play during the weekend of April 12 – 15. We need someone who would like to solicit volunteers (which can be done through the PTA's weekly e-mail), and contact, schedule and coordinate those volunteers to cover the Raffle table for approximately one hour before each show and during each intermission. If anyone is interested, volunteer now or contact Krista for information.

**Treasurer's Report**

Monies are coming in this month from the magazine drive and the Chili Cook-Off. The February financial statement was read. Ellen Roos-Unger moved to accept the February

statement. Mary Westwater seconded the motion. The February financial statement was approved.

## **Principal's Report**

### **Clark School / Wilkins School**

- Brenda Martucci reported that Clark and Wilkins students are collecting dental products for SHARE.
- Clark parents are visiting the music classes this week for Music in our Schools week.
- Dr. Jennings has visited Clark and Wilkins Schools to become more familiar with the school, students, and faculty.
- Teachers have been reminded about the PTA Spring Grants.
- The April Principal's Newsletter will have information about the placement process and placement letters.
- NEWA testing for grades 2 and 4 will be in May.
- Parents are reminded to visit the art exhibits in the hallways at Wilkins.

### **AMS**

- Porter Dodge reported that the Junior Great Books program has begun.
- *Music Man Jr.* was presented last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. It was an awesome show and thank you again to the PTA for the lighting and sound systems.
- Before the holiday break, the Evening of Arts program was well attended. Students demonstrated what they had learned in Music, Tech Ed, Art, Life Skills, and other programs.
- The last 7<sup>th</sup> grade Environmental School program begins tomorrow.
- The Wells Public Speaking competition concluded before break. The students were amazing speakers, with Cassie Jacobs winning for 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Placement discussions are beginning at AMS. Porter stressed that placement decisions strive for balance and meeting each individual student's needs.

### **Guest Speaker: Nancy McMillan, Amherst Recreation Department**

The PTA welcomed Nancy McMillan, the Amherst Recreation Department Director, to the general meeting on March 13. Mrs. McMillan has been with the Amherst Recreation Department for 16 months after serving with recreation departments in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Her mission for Amherst is to provide a comprehensive recreation department for all the citizens of Amherst. In the past, the recreation department concentrated on youth sports. Mrs. McMillan wants to broaden the programs to include everyone from tots to seniors. The Recreation Commission meets four times a year and the meetings are open to the public. Check out the website for times and dates.

Mrs. McMillan has helped to coordinate the 14 member recreation department board into three interest committees. The Administration committee is concentrating on meeting the needs of the citizens of Amherst by defining policy and facilitating the website.

The Facilities committee works with the space amenities the department currently has and seeking out other options for future needs. The committee, along with members of the school and town, is working on a master plan for the facilities needs over the next 10 years. Some ideas that have been discussed include a community center and artificial turf at AMS and Souhegan.

The Programs committee coordinates all the opportunities the recreation department has to offer. Mrs. McMillan thanked the schools for being so cooperative in coordinating programs and space needs. Some new programs for this year include Clown Camp, A Day on Broadway, Spanish, Archery, and the Mad Science NASA and Chemworks programs.

Mrs. McMillan also addressed what she felt was Amherst's "best keep secret" – Baboosic Lake. The Amherst Recreation Department tests the water once a week, and the results are posted on the website. The clean and natural lake is home to a nice beach, the Baboosic Lake Swim Team, and hopefully this summer, kayaks and canoes.

The Recreation Department also has a new summer camp program called SummerScape. For information about the summer camp, Skyhawks Sports Camps, or any other recreation department programs, check out the department's website at [amherstrec.org](http://amherstrec.org).

### **Teacher Reps' Report**

#### **Clark**

Chris Verrocchi reported that the Kindergarteners went on a field trip to see the dinosaurs at the SEE Science Museum and the Dinosaur Lady is coming to visit. These tie into the Dinosaur unit the Kindergarteners are working on. Screening for incoming Kindergarteners will take place in April. The Original Art fundraiser is going well. First Grade field trips are coming up soon, with some 1<sup>st</sup> graders going to the Capital Center in Concord to see *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* and others attending the Worcester Art Museum.

#### **Wilkins**

There was no report.

#### **AMS**

Mary Westwater reported that *Music Man Jr.* was a wonderful performance. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are preparing for the science fair. Students are excited about the upcoming Environmental School. The Junior Great Books Enrichment Program is an after school reading program for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. There will 12 sessions total. Staff has already begun working on transitions for next year.

### **School Board**

Nancy Head reported that Nicole Heimarck had reported to them about the NECAP results and work that would be done on the pinpointed areas of decrease. The Master Plan committee voted to stay with the same architect if the voting today passed the warrant article. The committee would like to get started right away, if the article passes.

### **PTA / PTSA**

There was no report.

### **Bellringer**

The March Bellringer came out electronically. The deadline for the April issue is March 15. Submissions should be made to Ellen Roos-Unger at: [ellenbr68@alumni.umass.edu](mailto:ellenbr68@alumni.umass.edu). Please cc Krista Hanks for all Bellringer articles. She is working to make sure that all committees and events are covered.

## **Committees**

### **Reflections**

Three First Place State Finalists from Amherst will be moving on to the National PTA Reflections Program:

Samantha Prue, Grade 5, Intermediate Musical Composition . . . piano  
"Up and Down the Lake"

Molly Murphy, Grade 6, Intermediate Visual Arts  
"Night Woods"

Marissa Ashcraft, Grade 9, Senior Literature  
"The Blanket"

### **PTA Play**

Denise Jacobs reported that tickets for *Fiddler on the Roof* were available at Moulton's, Toadstool Books, Black Forest Café, and from cast members. The Playbill is right on target. Estimated profits are about \$5300 this year.

### **Health Fair**

Lara Lowenberg reported that the Health Fair on March 10, 2007 was well attended. There were a great group of volunteers and the nurses were very pleased.

### **Original Art**

Sharon Rohlf reported that the deadline for ordering was extended until Friday March 16. Participation has been excellent with over 350 orders placed to date. It has been really nice to see the teachers participate. The committee will be processing and sending orders to the company by the end of the week. Products will be delivered immediately following spring break.

### **Attic Resources**

Attic Resources is an opportunity for teachers to receive donated items that they need for their classrooms. Teachers contact Laurie Coppola and the requested items are printed in the Bellingier. Anyone who would like to donate an item can then contact the requesting teachers directly by calling the school or using e-mail.

### **Grants Committee**

Denise Jacobs reported that the Spring Grants information has been given to the principals. The forms are on the website and the deadline is April 2.

### **Curriculum Enrichment**

There was no report.

### **Hospitality**

There was no report.

### **PTA Website**

The PTA Website is up and running, and is all new. Check it out!

### **Staff Appreciation**

There was no report.

## **Old / New Business**

### **Old**

There was no old business.

### **New**

The Amherst PTA was contacted by PTO Today, the national PTA magazine, about doing a story on our play fundraiser. Photos were provided and an article was written. This magazine is distributed to all the PTAs across the country. The article will be coming out in April.

On Friday, National PTA President, Anna Weselak, will be touring AMS to see all that the PTA has done in the classrooms and in the schools.

### **Adjournment**

- The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10, at 7.30pm at the Wilkins School Library. Nancy McMillian, head of the Amherst Recreation Department, will be our guest speaker.
- Ellen Roos-Unger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Westwater seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9.08pm.

Submitted by

Kristin Gaughan  
Secretary