



General Meeting Minutes for the 2011-2012 Academic School Year

January 10, 2012

Wilkins Library

October 2011 Minutes

PTA Members in attendance: 13

President: Sara Derushia
Vice President: Gillian Smith
Secretary: Sharon Fredette
Treasurer: Cheryl Kohlenberger
Members at Large: xxx

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

President's Report

- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance
- ❖ Sara welcomed Jon Engram-SHS Principal, Peg Bennett-School Board Member, Susan Taylor-Boys & Girls Club Souhegan Valley
- ❖ Teacher On-line Auction Report
- ❖ Open Committee Chairs
- ❖ 2011-2012 Playbill Manager
- ❖ 2012-2013 CE Clark, President (2yr term), Vice President (2yr term)
- ❖

Vice President's Report: Gillian Smith

V.P., absent (see President's report)

Treasurer's Report – Cheryl Kohlenberger

- Treasurer absent. Financials to be read at next meeting.

Secretary's Report

- Approved minutes from September 2011 meeting. Motion to accept Gerry St. Amand , 2nd Porter Dodge.
- Welcome to new Board Members at Large: Paula Marie Passen and Cherina Cohen

Principal of Souhegan High School – Jon Ingram

- Introduction. Discussed the school/parent connection. What does it mean to be a democratic school? Perception vs. Reality. Looking to empower students, where every child has a voice. Would like to get back to the early years of SHS.
- Talked about the 5 Task Forces which are designed to look at issues from previous years. 1. Schedule, 2. Grading and assessment, 3. Inclusionary practices, 4. Special Ed., Advisory Program – corner stone of Souhegan.
- .

Amherst School Board Rep – Peg Bennett

- Discussed the role of the Amherst School Board and the goals they strive to achieve. Explained how policies are set within the district and how budgets are developed.
- Explained how agendas are made and how they determine what topics are to be discussed at the school board meetings. Described the differences between public and non-public school board meetings.
- Question and Answer Period

Principal's Report – Porter Dodge - Amherst Middle School

- NECAPs Next Week
- NECAP TESTING (New England Common Assessment Program) for all grades will be administered October 12, 13, 14, 17, & 18. Testing consists of Reading and Math for all grades and an additional assessment of Writing in grades 5 and 8.
- **Your assistance in assuring that your child has the proper rest and nutrition is greatly appreciated.** In addition, please take a moment to talk with your child about the importance of these tests and of giving his or her very best effort and focus. Room parents will be providing healthy snacks and water daily. Students may bring in their own water bottles for use.
- AMS Dance next Friday, Oct. 14
- There will be a dance next Friday evening for students in grades 6-8 from 7-9:30pm sponsored by the field hockey and soccer teams. Cost for the dance is \$6. Some reminders about AMS Dances:
- Dances
- AMS dances run from 7-9:30pm and are for AMS students in grades 6, 7 and 8. A limited number of Guest Passes are available. Guest pass applications are available and must be completed and returned to the office by the Wednesday prior to the dance. All school rules apply at dances (e.g. attire, language, behavior). You must be in attendance at school on the day of the dance. Once you arrive at the dance, you may not leave unless accompanied by an adult. If you leave the dance without an adult or if you are asked to leave for disciplinary reasons, you will lose the privilege of attending any dances for the school year. CELL Phones will not be permitted to be visible at dances. This includes

using them for taking pictures of other students. Cell phones will be allowed to be used to call a parent (with supervision) during a dance.

- **AMS Theater Club Auditions:** Tuesday, October 11th 2:15 – 9:00pm. Report to the cafeteria for check-in. The audition schedule is posted in the Theater Club display case and will be sent by email to all participants from amstheaterclub@gmail.com. Please be sure this email is not being blocked or sent to your spam folder.
- **AMS Book Fair:** Mon-Fri, Oct. 24-28:
- **Attendance/Tardy Policy:**
- In accordance with the Amherst School District policy we're asking all parents to let the school know not only that a student will be late or absent, but the reason for missing time in school. Simply saying that the student is "late" or will be "absent" is not sufficient, a reason must be stated. If a reason is not stated, we will consider the tardy or absence "unexcused". If a child receives three unexcused tardies, a note will be sent home to parents informing them that on the next unexcused tardy, a detention will be assigned. This is for **unexcused tardies** only. As always, parents should inform us by phone (673-8944, ext.3), a note/email or in person that their student will be late or absent (and the reason).
- **Wellness**
- SAU 39 policy are in full effect. We ask that parents send in only healthy foods for snacks and celebrations. As always, we appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Principals Report –Gerry J. St. Amand - Clark-Wilkens School

- NECAP testing has been completed, other than make-ups, which will extend through the balance of this week.
- DIBELS mathematics continues to be administered in grades K, 1, and 2.
- Grade level and special subject teachers refined building goals during last week's faculty meeting and this week's late start, with a target date of Friday, October 14 as the due date for final versions.
- Today's late start included very detailed sharing and highlighting of many new library-media materials by Kathie McIntyre, media-specialist.
- 72% of last year's fourth graders achieved at the level of proficiency or higher on the May 2011 administration of the Science NECAP; notably higher than the state average and an increase over our previous performance.
- New staff members: Colleen McCarthy, Barbara Carpenter, and Judy Blood.
- Multiple teacher resource books have been purchased for and added to our professional library that focus on the area of differentiated instruction.--***identify six "DI" facilitators.

Boys and Girls Club of Souhegan Valley – Susan Taylor

- Discussed the program and its role in the community. Three areas of focus: academic success, life-long learning and character and leadership.

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 Sodders

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

- On-line auction begins November 1st – 12th
- December 2 – Holiday Story Time Clark School 6:30
- Family Math and Science Night – Karen Oates and Jane Sodder. Scheduled for Monday, March 12 at AMS. (Two days before International Pi Day, will have “pi theme” for K-8 students.
- Chunky's Fundraiser – Paula Marie Passen. Begins November 21 and ends 12/9. Tickets are \$6.00 Packets to go to Pre-School, Clark/Wilkens and AMS the Friday before.

Motion was made by Sara Derushia to adjourn the meeting at 8:15, Diane Manning 1st, and Porter Dodge 2nd.

Submitted by:

Sharon Fredette

Secretary of the Amherst PTA