

FISKE PTO GENERAL MEETING 2009-2010
Meeting Minutes: Thursday March 18, 2010
Fiske Library at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members: Jenn M, Laura H., Kathy V., Ann K. and Julie B.

Others Present: Elaine H., Bella W., Mary G. and Linda M.

Welcome & Introductions- Jenn M. welcomed the group to the meeting and introduced Bella W. Superintendent of Wellesley Public Schools.

Approval of February 5, 2010 PTO Meeting Minutes and Motion to Accept- A motion to approve the February 2010 PTO Meeting Minutes was made, and it was unanimously approved.

Bella W. Updates School Budget and Happenings: Bella W. stated that the School Budget was unanimously approved by the Advisory Committee. In the past if a budget was unanimously approved by the Advisory Board it will usually be approved by the Town, so she believes there should not be any problems. The process was a very difficult and emotional one, however it is believed it is the best budget given the circumstances. In the end the areas that will be impacted are a reduction in music, art and fitness. In addition, costly high school bus routes will be eliminated due to lack of usage.

There is a new Elementary Therapeutic Program being launched in Wellesley. In the past this program was out of town, now that the service is offered in Wellesley we will recognize savings on transportation and tuition.

Discussions continue about the Wellesley Middle School (WMS) capacity. In 2005-2007 renovations were completed to offer a capacity of 1,100 students. As the years have gone by the number of students has increased beyond projected numbers. Currently there are 1,128 students and over the next few years it is expected to rise to 1,285. The committees are trying to determine the best and most cost effective solution to increase space. WMS is a true middle school model, in which 6th grade students are in houses, 7th grade students have clusters and 8th grade students have a more open structure to help prepare for high school. The WMS model allows students to grow and become competent and confident learners.

Principal's Report

Elaine H. reported that this week has been a very busy week. Math Night was last night (3/17) and it was very well attended. In the past, Math Night was held in May but with all of the year- end activities it was decided that March is a better time of year to hold this event. In addition, the Health and Fitness classes are holding open houses where families can attend and watch their child in gym class.

There have been a large number of absentees both students and teachers. Please continue to emphasize the importance of washing hands.

The MCAs start next week and they consist of 3 weeks of testing for the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades.

Board Updates

Fiske Family Ski Day: Jenn M. wanted to thank the individuals who organized the family ski trip, Beth M., Katie S.M., and Kate B.! It was a beautiful day and everyone had a wonderful time.

Auction: Jenn M. stated that approximately 150 people have RSVP'd for the Auction and of that number 27 are school faculty members. All RSVP's are due tomorrow. The Auction committee feels they are on track to meet their target of \$40,000.

Fiske Spirit Wear: Linda M. presented the new logo and items that will be offered for the Fiske Spirit Wear collection. The options are a plaid blanket, hooded sweat shirt, pants, traditional baseball shirt, and tee shirts for boys and girls.

5th Grade Activities: Linda M. informed everyone that the 5th Grade mystery trip is all planned. The yearbook is also progressing very well. In addition, the 5th grade is in the process of determining the class gift. The audience discussed the importance of instilling community service with our 5th graders; one option will be to have the class perform a spring clean up at the school. This community service would be a nice tradition to start and have for years to come.

Budget Consideration

Jenn M. reported that there is extra money in the budget. As a result the board would like to purchase additional technology for the school. The proposal is to purchase 4 more smart ELMO boards. A vote is required if adjusting/spending more the \$250. A motion to approve the purchase of additional technology was made and it was unanimously approved.

Reminder

The Auction is on Friday April 9, 2010 at the Wellesley Country Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. Next meeting is Thursday May 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fiske Library.
Respectfully submitted, Julie B., PTO Communications Coordinator