

**FISKE PTO GENERAL MEETING 2009-2010**  
**Meeting Minutes: Friday September 25, 2009**  
**Fiske Library at 8:30 a.m.**

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

**Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Elaine H., Brian A., Trina F., Susan R., Gloria J., Adrienne F., Sree B., Cindi F., Janet G., Irene K., Wendy N., Moe B., Jared P., Susan F., Sue C., Amy V., Robin S., Eva M., Melissa M., Brooke C., Betsy N., Meredith L., Linda M., Sue M., Susan C., Janet G., Jayne K., Wendy B., Jessica G., Linnea O., Christy R. and Anna L.

**Proceedings:**

**President's Report:**

*Welcome & Introductions-* Jenn M. thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and she introduced the PTO Board as follows: Kerri K. Co-President, Kathy V. and Laura H. Co-Vice Presidents, Ann K. and Belinda V. Co-Treasurers and Julie B. Communication Coordinator.

*Approval of May 2009 PTO Meeting Minutes and Motion to Accept-* A motion to approve the May 2009 PTO Meeting Minutes was made, and it was unanimously approved.

*Executive Team Budget Proposal & Motion to Accept-* The presented 2009-10 PTO Budget is on the back page of the agenda, a high level line by line review of the budget took place. Highlights of the discussion are the following:

- Jenn M. informed the audience that the budget is a working budget during the year. Once the budget is approved, if there is a need to spend/adjust the budget by \$250 or more a separate vote will be required.
- The Auction is a bi-annual event so the money is spread over 2 years, it is expected that approximately \$40,000 will be made at the auction.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Activities: The PTO budgets \$2000 for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade class. This amount pays for yearbooks and t-shirts for each student. Additional fundraising is the responsibility of the class. Linda M. and Linda S. are leading that effort. The class leaves a school gift and they have a class trip.

A motion to approve the budget was made, and it was unanimously approved.

*Monday Memo (M.M.) Policy and Procedure-* Kerri K. presented the new policy and procedure for the Monday Memo. A detailed description of the M.M. is on the agenda as item #4. The M.M. is a vehicle of communication that will support the Fiske Family Bulletin. The goal is to keep Fiske Families informed of all school activities.

**Principal's Report:**

Elaine H. stated the gym is open and as a result the first school assembly was this week. It was very successful and all the children are ready to be back at school. There was a slide show and the new staff and new students were introduced.

She also informed the audience that the MCAs results were mailed out. A detailed review of the MCAS was presented. Overall, Fiske students performed better this year when compared to last year, so it is positive that the school population is improving. Fiske performance was better than the State of MA, and was in the middle of the Wellesley district schools. The Fiske population is very diverse and that contributes to the results. The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science scores were not as good as expected, but the school district is not teaching to the test. The Wellesley school district determines the science curriculum and they are very confident in that curriculum. All of the MCAs results are reviewed by the teachers. The teachers review last year's class and incoming class results. The teacher breaks down the results to the student level, so s/he may focus on the individual student who needs additional help. Teachers will also discuss the results with parents at parent/teacher conferences.

### **Presenter Brian Allerieri, “The How & Why of...Technology...”**

Brian A. gave a technology tour of what is currently at Fiske and what we hope to have in the future at Fiske. Currently, every classroom has a cart with a DVD, VCR, projector and laptop. This set up allows the teacher to share information with their class, however one challenge is there is a great deal of wires and cumbersome set up time. If the equipment was mounted Brian feels it would improve usage of the technology.

Brian focused on two additional items the ELMO and the Smart Board. Thanks to the efforts of the PTO and Fiske population, Fiske will have 6 ELMOS. Last year 3 ELMOS were purchased and this year 3 more ELMOs will be ordered.

**ELMO-** Brian demonstrated the ELMO and described its benefits in the classroom, which are students can see more detail in 3 dimensional items, teachers/students can more easily explain how to solve detailed problems (math, science, etc) and it encourages students to present their knowledge in front of the class. The price of an ELMO is approximately \$600.

**SMART BOARD-** A Smart board is an interactive whiteboard that allows teachers/students to navigate the computer from the whiteboard. The computer mouse is controlled directly from the board; as a result the time spent moving back and forth from the board to the computer is eliminated. There are a number of tool kits available for the teacher to design lessons for his/her class. Wellesley teachers are sharing best lesson practices across the town. The price of a Smart Board is approximately \$1200 and the mounting costs approximately \$800. Both pieces of technology are amazing and will help improve the educational experience for the Wellesley students.

It has been declared by the Wellesley Public School System that every school classroom will have an ELMO/SMART BOARD mounted within 5 years. If a school does not want to wait 5 years they are free to raise the money and install the technology sooner. Schools who cannot afford to obtain the technology will receive it as soon as the town has it available.

### **Board Updates:**

- *Wild West Final # By Linda Messore-* Linda M. wanted to thank all of the Wild West Committee members as well as everyone who supported the Wild West event. Based on the number of challenges that were present this year, the Wild West was a success. Fiske made over \$15,000.
- *Committee 21 Update By Trina Foster/Susan Ryan-* Trina F. informed everyone that this year again will be a tough year for the school budget. The state funds are down and that will impact the local budgets. There are a number of areas of concern, with the biggest concern at the Wellesley Middle School, which is the largest middle school in the state. WMS does not have enough classrooms to accommodate the student population. To keep informed about all Wellesley Public School issues please visit the website, [www.committee21.org](http://www.committee21.org).
- *Sally Foster Sale Begins-* Jenn M. reviewed the wonderful initiatives that the Fundraising Committee is working on, and encouraged everyone to help out so Fiske may raise as much money as possible. The Sally Foster Sale is beginning and everyone was urged to sell wrapping paper, and magazines to support Fiske. Another program is the Take Charge of Education initiative with Target. If you obtain a Target credit card every time you use the REDcard a percentage of your purchase will go to Fiske School. Lastly, Box Tops is another area where Fiske can earn money by having all Fiske families collect the Box Top labels and submit them back to school via the backpacks.
- *Project PTO FAQs by Cathi Jones & Julie Wilde:* A detailed description of the FAQs initiative is on the agenda as item #8. Kerri K. explained that Cathi J. and Julie W. will be collecting questions and obtaining the answers about anything regarding Fiske. All of the information will be organized in a central location, for all of Fiske members to reference anytime they have a Fiske question.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m. Next meeting is Fri. Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Fiske Library.  
Respectfully submitted, Julie Beyer, PTO Communications Coordinator