

**FISKE PTO GENERAL MEETING 2009-2010**  
**Meeting Minutes: Friday November 6, 2009**  
**Fiske Library at 8:30 a.m.**

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

**Absent:** Ann K. and Belinda V.

**Others Present:** Elaine H., Steve B., Kalise J., Amy V., Susan R., Debbie C., Ann G., Moe B., Chris O., Christine R., Jane T., John T., Irene K., Beth M., Jayne K., Sree B., Bridget B., Karen G., Christine D., Meredith L., Danmei L., Sue C., Anna L., Nichole B., Sue M.

**Proceedings:**

**President's Report**

*Welcome & Introductions-* Jenn M. welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced the two guest speakers: Steve B., WPS School Committee Representative and Kalise J., Director of Wellesley METCO Program. The next PTO meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> will have Dr. Robert E. from the Human Relations Service. If anyone has issues/questions that he/she would like to have addressed please submit them to [news@fiskepto.org](mailto:news@fiskepto.org) prior to the meeting.

*Approval of September 25, 2009 PTO Meeting Minutes and Motion to Accept-* A motion to approve the September 2009 PTO Meeting Minutes was made, and it was unanimously approved.

**Principal's Report**

Elaine H. informed the audience that Bella W. has sent out an informational H1N1 update via e-mail. Elaine also reminded families to keep sick children home. It is very important that the Fiske office has updated contact information in case the school needs to call families about student illness. Overall, the school has had a few children and teachers sick, but the numbers are standard for this time of year. She encouraged everyone to continue to practice prevention by washing hands. This same message is continually reinforced in the classrooms. Purell may be used in the classrooms but the small bottles are the only size allowed due to fire hazard.

Elaine H. will host a "**Principal Coffee**" on **Friday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am in the Fiske Library**; all parents/guardians are encouraged to attend.

**Presenter Steve B., WPS School Committee Representative**

Kerri K. introduced Steve B. as the Permanent Building Committee Liaison. Steve B. reviewed the construction work that was performed during the summer. All Wellesley Elementary Schools had work performed with the exception of Sprague and Bates, as they are new buildings. Fiske is scheduled to have the most work of all the elementary schools and it is on a 2 year schedule.

In summer 2009 the following was completed:

- Replaced boilers that were up and running by 10/15/09.
- Updated lighting- ½ completed
- Abatement of tile- ½ completed

Next summer 2010 the following is scheduled:

- Remaining lighting will be completed
- Remaining abatement of tile will be completed
- Alarm will be updated
- Smoke and Sprinkler system updated
- Windows will be replaced

Steve B. addressed questions about an article that referenced the potential hazardous fumes from caulking of windows and doors. Fiske will have all new windows and caulking so this will not be a problem.

The Wellesley High School Project is moving along and is anticipated to be completed in 3 years.

Due to asbestos in Fiske the mounting of technology equipment was delayed. The School Committee will look at Fiske to ensure it is equal to all other Wellesley Elementary schools in terms of technology. In closing, Steve B. informed people they may keep up to date with Wellesley Public School activity by visiting the website.

### **Presenter Kalise J., Director Wellesley METCO Program**

Kerri K. introduced Kalise J., who is in her 7<sup>th</sup> year as the Director of the Wellesley METCO Program. Kalise J. gave a brief history about how METCO was started; it stemmed from the "1966 Racial Imbalance Act". Currently, there are 33 communities in Massachusetts that participate in METCO. In Wellesley, there are 159 children in all levels of school, from elementary school up to high school. Funding for METCO is from the State. The per student amount is not enough to cover all expenses, as a result Kalise J. applies for grants that cover the difference. As most programs they are constantly looking for ways to stay afloat.

To participate in METCO a child must be registered by a parent or guardian. The child is placed on a waiting list. METCO works with the participating cities to identify schools that have room in their classes. The next child on the list will be given the opportunity to attend the available school. An attempt to keep siblings in the same school is made but it is not guaranteed since the slots are determined by classroom availability.

To help the METCO students become comfortable in the community there is a volunteer based program called "Family Friends Program". A host family helps facilitate after school programs, play dates, etc. with the Boston family. This allows the METCO student to participate in all aspects of the school experience.

In closing, Kalise J. felt the most important action we can take is to talk to our children about the METCO program. There is a party at Bates on Saturday from 4 p.m.-6p.m. for all METCO students/families and host families.

### **Board Updates:**

*Auction Status by Sue M./Karen G.:* Sue M. talked about the committee meeting at her house to prepare for the Auction. **The Auction will be on Friday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Wellesley Country Club.** It is important that they get a great deal of volunteers to make this event a success. Sue had a sign up sheet that was distributed.

- *Fundraising: Sally Foster & Original Works by Gloria J.:* For the Original Works we made our goal of over \$2,000, thank you to everyone who participated. For Box Tops there is a new form that will be going home with a Thanksgiving theme, please fill out the turkey with Box Tops.
- *Multicultural Festival by Sree B.:* **The event is on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 and it will be at the Wellesley Middle School.** This is also a METCO stay day. The festival covers all cultures and has been very successful in years past. Last year there were 425 people in attendance. This year, adults are required to accompany children to the event. There will be food and entertainment. This event needs a great deal of volunteers so please sign up to help by contacting Sree at [sreeld.bala@gmail.com](mailto:sreeld.bala@gmail.com) or 781-237-0952.
- Thank you to all families who hosted a Grade Wide Social they have been very successful.
- Reminder: The Fiske Family Bulletin is always available on Friday. Please add a link to your computer so you may easily retrieve the information. A reminder about the bulletin is also published in the Monday Memo. Reading the bulletin will keep everyone apprised of all school activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m. Next meeting is Thurs. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Fiske Library.  
Respectfully submitted, Julie B., PTO Communications Coordinator