

## Wilchester PTA Minutes

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Started: 12:09 Adjourned: 12:56

### 1. President's remarks/minutes

- a. Gigi White called the meeting to order. She asked if there were any changes or corrections to the September minutes. No one responded with changes so she said that the minutes would stand as posted.
- b. Gigi also thanked the Hospitality chairs for the wonderful food and those who were in charge of Fall Family Fun Night. She gave out prizes for those members who were without power the longest during the hurricane.

### 2. Executive Board Reports

- a. Kristina Seiler –Treasurer- reviewed attached handout of the past month's budget. She mentioned the major incoming items were yearbook, directory and school supply monies which will be outgoing expenses. The revenue items she mentioned were spirit sales, underwriting and auction catalog. She had a few summer expenses that were still being paid as well as technology fund money that will go toward new computer equipment. She passed around a thank you note from Ms. Stovall for the PTA funds she received for her classroom.
- b. Beth Roberts – Budget – She let everyone know we would be extending the reimbursement date to November 15<sup>th</sup> due Hurricane Ike delays.
- c. Sharon Muschalik – Ways and Means – reminded everyone about the letter to Kroger that members can take in to receive rewards for the school. She also said that Underwriting letters will be going out in November so if anyone has company names that they would like to submit as possible donors, to let her know.
- d. Carrie Harper – Events – Dads and Donuts is Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. She stated that any loved one can come if a dad is not available to make the breakfast. She also asked for volunteers to come help hand out donuts at the event.

### 3. Committee Reports

- a. Kimberly Kennedy – Yearbook- She stated that due to Ike we had to reschedule picture day to October 20. We will not be able to have a retake day because of the delay. We will have Spring pictures but the Fall pictures will appear in the yearbook. Fifth Grade Tribute pages are due on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

- b. **Elise Schwartz – The Used book sale will be November 11-14<sup>th</sup>. Beginning October 28<sup>th</sup>, families can donate books in the boxes placed around the school. She will need volunteers to serve in one hour shifts at the sale.**
- c. **Reflections – Gigi White spoke for the chairs and reminded everyone that Reflection projects are due November 7<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your children to participate.**
- d. **Room mom chairs – Thanks for the great start and coffees.**

#### **4. Auction Reports**

- a. **Valerie Cassady/Cheryl Brady – Auction is November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please turn in reservations for tables as soon as possible. It is important to list first and last names for all persons involved. The chairs displayed jewelry that will be up at the auction. They also said that catalogs would be out by next Friday at the latest. Thanks to the many that helped with organizing donations and preparing the catalog. The chairs explained that we have hired a professional auctioneer this year and have changed the order of closings at auction. The items will close in waves with silent auction items closing before dinner. This change makes it important for members to be there at the 6:00 start time. Big board items will close later. Announcements will be made prior to the closings of each grouping. This change will help keep things running on time and help bring in more funds during the Live Auction. Bottles of wine will be available for purchase this year and if you use a credit card for drink tickets there is a \$25 minimum. Cheryl also displayed the centerpieces for the auction and mentioned they would be up as silent auction items. Diamond drawing will be a candy bar instead of champagne.**
- b. **Kathy Goss – the parties will be great this year. Please remember there is a page for each slot at a party so look through the books carefully as you bid. Bidders must be polite and fair or they will not be allowed to win a slot. Also, there is a new game during auction where members can purchase Candy jewelry for \$25 and get a chance to win a large prize in Heads and Tails game. Be looking for Queen Frostine and Princess Lolly at**

the event to get a chance to play. One piece of jewelry per person is the rule.

5. **Principal's Remarks – Carol Emerson spoke about the District's new Homework policy. A committee from the district was appointed last year to recommend a new Homework policy because many parents felt that the work load of some students was too heavy. They looked into research regarding homework time and increase in learning and there is no current data that supports longer time in homework increasing student's scores or overall learning. We have a policy in place this year that will be evaluated after the year is complete. Each grade is allowed a specific amount of time for homework and that time limit was in the curriculum packets that parents received at the Open House night. Our staff is working hard to follow the guidelines. Some of the parents asked for updates from their teachers on a monthly basis in the younger grades, to have a better understanding of what the students are learning each day. Carol Emerson also said she would post the curriculum information on the Wilchester PTA website so parents could review the Homework policy there. Several members also asked if this policy would help their 5<sup>th</sup> grade students transition better to Middle school. Ms. Emerson and other members stated that they thought it was a positive thing and would help in this area.**