

Attendance: Teresa Hanrahan, Brenda Kramer, Claudia Kuthoore, Angie Houghton, Karen Garrick, Peggy Bell Cole, Jen Martin, Stephanie Jirak, Karen Lamson.

Minutes: The October 13, 2009 minutes were presented. Teresa Hanrahan motioned to accept the minutes as presented; Peggy Bell Cole seconded the motion.

Principal's Report:

Angie Houghton, Vice Principal, gave the Principal's report in Mike Snopkowski's absence. She reported that Mike had spoken to the Shared Decision-Making Team (SDMT) about postponing the loose change collection drive until spring due to the food donation collection currently being held. Angie also mentioned that the holiday music concerts were coming up, with the choral and strings concert on December 15th and the band concert on December 16th.

Karen Garrick, Secretary to the Principal, stated that the LifeTouch (school photos) incentive money would be given to the PTO to funnel back into the middle school.

Treasurer's Report: Copies of the Balance Sheet, Banking Summary, and Cash Flow were distributed for review.

- Cash and bank accounts total \$23,230.37.
- Liabilities total \$53.80 in sales tax payable.
- Overall total is \$23,176.57.

Teresa noted that not all of the restaurant coupons have been paid out, and the figures will go down once that process is completed. She also suggested making the remainder of coupons available for sale at parent/teacher conferences.

New Business:

Angie (reporting for Mike Snopkowski) said that Karen Norris, the Instructional Technology Specialist, had found what she thought was a better and lower cost hand-held device than the Activexpression system demonstrated and discussed at the last PTO meeting in October. Karen plans to test the new product with teachers to ascertain if it is better; and if so, the school may be able to purchase two new data collection sets instead of one due to the lower cost. All middle school teams are now being trained on the data collection systems, which are working out great within the classroom setting.

Old Business:

Concerning the college logo T-shirts, Teresa has contacted the vendor she used at AGIS. She showed samples from the vendor's website (www.fanstore.com) and discussed using separate colors for better differentiation between the FSEMS teams. The shirts are \$8.00 with the screen printing an additional \$1.00, so the cost would be \$9.00 per shirt. Teresa suggested selling the shirts for \$12.00 apiece (adult sizes only) and anticipates that the kids will really like them. To get samples to display at parent/teacher conferences will cost \$15.00 per shirt plus the screen printing. Angie suggested putting large pictures of the shirts in the team classrooms where the parent/teacher conferences will be held. Teresa

said that the actual samples will reside in the school office, where there will be three of each sample (in sizes Small, Medium and Large) for Penn State (navy), Delaware (royal), and Texas (orange). She also suggested that the shirts could be worn on spirit days; and if students did not purchase the team T-shirt, they could simply wear any shirt in their team color on those days. The vendor can also make FSEMS socks available.

Jennifer Martin mentioned that Hendrix Orthodontics is willing to provide T-shirts with their logo on them free of charge. They want to get their name into the community and will be providing shirts for the basketball fundraiser this year. Teresa suggested that perhaps Hendrix could provide FSEMS shirts at the beginning of the next school year. Claudia suggested making the purchased college logo T-shirts part of the school gym uniform, and Angie said that the school cannot require students to pay money for any resource needed to participate in a class. Teresa responded to this by mentioning that Hendrix could possibly donate its T-shirts next year as gym shirts, and most thought this was a great idea. Peggy suggested making the college logo T-shirt sale flyer available to the high school, as many of those students are looking at these as potential colleges. Finally, Teresa said that she did mention the potential T-shirt sale to Mr. Hanna and Mr. Schemmer, who have been looking for ways to increase team unity.

Concerning the Entertainment Book sale, Peggy is not sure the flyers have made it to students' homes. No one seems to have seen it, and Peggy has only sold 6-7 books. The flyers have been displayed on the school's bulletin boards and have been sitting in homerooms as an optional take-home, and kids are most likely not communicating this sale to parents. Peggy stated that only 100 books were purchased for sale, and these can possibly be sold in the team classrooms at parent/teacher conferences and at the Book Fair. Avon Grove seniors, who will be functioning as greeters at the parent/teacher conferences, will also see these flyers. Both the Delaware and West Philadelphia books are being made available, and Teresa noted that movie coupons provided in the books can be re-ordered if all are used. Peggy feels that the discontinuation of the News Flash is contributing to the lack of school-to-home communication and that this could have been used to remind parents about the Entertainment Book sale.

Brenda Kramer reported that she is attempting to get the web page (replacing the hard copy newsletter) to look "newsier". She brought a sample to the meeting and stated that she wants to update the web page once a month. Brenda acknowledged the lack of communication between the school website and students' homes, and she believes parents don't think to check the website unless they are prompted to do so. Teresa mentioned that the school can go back to paying \$39/yr. for TeacherWeb in order to have the News Flash sent out again, but parents would have to sign up for it again as well. Angie reminded the group that we have EduLink which can do the same thing (send e-mails to parents). Teresa stated that she'd rather using EduLink and not spend any additional money. Angie said that a parent group could be set up within EduLink and one e-mail message could be sent to the entire group. After discussing this option, Teresa noted that there were many things that could be advertised, such as Hershey Park tickets, the Basketball Fundraiser, etc. It was agreed that the middle school needs to make its Announcements page on the Avon Grove website more up-to-date, as demonstrated and maintained by the high school. Angie reiterated that there is a lot of potential for information communication using both EduLink and PowerSchool. Peggy stated that she feels somewhat disconnected from the school and out-of-the-loop under the present circumstances. Angie also mentioned that first quarter marking period report cards would be coming out soon, and there might be some glitches as everyone is still learning the PowerSchool system.

Committee Reports:

Box Tops

Christine Stewart sent about \$900 worth of box tops in, so the school is still making money with this endeavor. The next turn-in deadline will be at the end of February. Teresa suggested that students put their box tops in a sandwich bag with their teacher's name on it, because their teacher's classroom will not receive credit if they are dropped off at the collection box in the office without this identification. Teachers also need to remind kids where the classroom box tops collection box is, and Angie said that she would remind teachers of this at the next SDMT meeting.

Book Fair

Claudia stated that the Book Fair starts next Thursday, November 19th, and that the flyer would be going out on Monday, November 16th. To help promote the Book Fair, Kim Brendle will be doing a locker lottery where random locker numbers are drawn to win \$8.00 gift certificates to be used at the fair. Four locker numbers each day will be drawn on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before the Book Fair begins. The fair's set-up will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 18th. Claudia has e-mailed all parents who signed up to volunteer, as three volunteers will be needed per session (one to help buyers and two to handle check-out). Students will be shopping for books during their Language Arts classes, and Teresa suggested putting the team shopping date information on the web page.

Holiday Luncheon

Diana Lagana and Angie will be meeting with the Student Council on Monday, November 16th, to select this year's theme for the luncheon and discuss any other pertinent items.

Basketball Fundraiser

Jennifer Martin stated that we need to find ways to motivate classrooms who don't yet have any parent volunteers for the basketball game. Suggestions were to use the web page and to advertise at the parent/teacher conferences.

Reading Incentives

Stephanie Jirak stated that more money was needed to continue providing the rewards used in the past (pretzels and water for 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarters, and an ice cream party for 4th quarter). Teresa suggested possibly doing just pretzels and no water. The cost is currently 28¢ per pretzel. Stephanie also discussed various other end-of-year incentives. The 1st quarter rewards were set to be distributed on Thursday, November 12th.

Upcoming Dates:

- Entertainment Book Sale: Ongoing until November 30
- Fall Book Fair: November 19-24
- Staff Holiday Luncheon: December 22
- Next PTO Meeting: January 12 at 7:00pm
- Basketball Fundraiser Basket Preview: February 24
- Basketball Fundraiser Game and Baskets: February 25

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.