

Robert Seaman Elementary School

PTA General Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2006

PTA Presidents Beth Cohen and Diane Frisenda:

Welcomed parents and Mr. Ratner.

Special Guest Speaker; Dr. Norman Fried.

Special thanks to:

- The Hospitality Committee for setting up the food and beverages.
- Family Photo Day Committee for a successful event.
- Costume Party Treat Night Committee for a terrific evening of trick-or-treating, crafts, and dancing.
- Community Service Committee for the Coat Drive, Eyeglass Drive, and Can Drive.
- Health & Safety Committee for their assistance with the community Blood Drive.
- The 5th grade, Yearbook, Public Relations, Sunshine, Bulletin Board, Boxtops, Cartridges for Kids, Community Service and Calendar Committees, were all thanked for their ongoing efforts.

Please remember to post all committee flyers on the bottom half of the bulletin board.

A reminder was given about the next day's Blood Drive being held at Jackson.

The PTA has contracted to purchase a sign to be installed in the front of the school, very similar to the one located on Route 106 at the entrance to the Middle School. This sign is a gift from the PTA to the school.

The next Board of Ed meeting is on November 9th at 7:30pm at Jackson.

There will not be a December PTA meeting – our next meeting will be on January 10th at 9:00am.

School Board Report

At the last Board of Ed meeting, safety procedures within the district were discussed as a result of the recent bomb threats received at the Middle/High Schools; the district and local police feel confident that the phone calls were made as a prank and that there was never any true threat. Whoever is found to be responsible for the phone calls will be legally prosecuted.

There was a presentation on the possibility of construction of a planetarium/observatory. This was one suggestion as to how to spend the recent \$3 million the district received from the sale of property in Brookville. No decision has been made, and other suggestions are being welcomed by the district.

Treasurer's Report: Sandra Galu

Reimbursement of expenses may be submitted up until 2 weeks after the event. Forms for reimbursement are in the main office and on line at the PTA Website. A receipt must be attached with each form.

The current balance of the general PTA account is \$25,029.

The sweatshirt sales profit is \$4,700. This exceeded our projected profit of \$4,000.

The 5th grade account has a balance of \$4,568. The sale of pizza at Costume Treat Night generated a profit of \$256, and the Notecards Sale profit is \$650.

Mr. Ratner's Report

Good evening. Let's look at the November calendar together. On Monday, November 6th, the children listened to extraordinary speeches given by our student candidates for Student Council officer for each office, and then cast their votes in our voting booth later that day to elect the four officers they felt best suited for the jobs. I was really proud of all the candidates...for their commitment to the task, their poise, and their confidence. They were all winners! Our officers will greet all of you at the January PTA Meeting.

Other November events include: Kindergartners have started playdates; Grade One visited the Jericho Fire House today; Grade Five will visit the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum and will meet with author Jim

Murphy at the Jericho Public Library; Grades One and Two Open Houses are coming up; and our Club Program has begun.

Yesterday, while not a school day for students, was a time for all of our faculty and staff to participate in training and refine information about students at risk. The New York State Social Studies Assessment for Grade Five is next week. Parent Teacher Conferences and the issuance of report cards in Grades 1-5 are on the calendar and in e-mail for the middle of December.

Lastly, much planning is going on behind the scenes to accomplish tasks and plan activities for later in the school year and beyond. PTA committees are hard at work. At the school and district levels, the school budget for 07/08 is being readied. In short, we have many exciting things being worked on and much to do in the weeks and months ahead. I look forward to be able to share the news and updates with you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Boxtops/Cartridges for Kids

Everyone is encouraged to send in whatever Boxtops they have, and to do their holiday shopping online through the Boxtops website.

Any questions contact: Stephanie Ginsberg, Susan Gordon, Suzanne Hogan-Dobek, Jody Davis-Mitrea, Jane Leicht

Calendar

If you have an event that you would like entered on the school calendar please contact Shelly Bloch no later than the 15th of the prior month at Shelly_Bloch@yr.com

Carnival

Our "Hollywood" themed carnival will be on Saturday, January 27th from noon to 3pm.

There will be many new games this year, and terrific raffle prizes.

Any questions contact: Michelle Berger, Rosamaria Catania, Georgia Deplas, Allyson Edelman, Tammy Fine, Barrie Kornberg, Debra Waller, Sheri and Tom Taubes

Community Service

A Toy Drive will be held from December 4th – 8th. Please donate brand-new, unwrapped toys for charity.

Any questions contact: Robyn Corbin, Kim Fields, Toni Lalmoni, Missy Simon, Shari Yardeni, Suzanne Saban

5th Grade

The 5th grade fundraiser is separate from the general fundraising committees. This helps support only the 5th grade for the year end circus, yearbook, and graduation party. Please continue to support Fifth Grade Fridays; a Thanksgiving Donut Sale will be held on November 17th, \$1 per donut, 1 donut limit per child.

The Graduation Party this year has been changed from the George Washington Manor to Double G Productions in Syosset, which will be more fun for the kids.

Any questions contact: Stefanie Bower, Amy Josephson, Robyn Levy, Lisa Pappas, Cherie Serota

5th Grade Yearbook

A booster flyer has gone out and is due back by December 1st.

*Please note that dates on flyers are critical.

Any questions contact: Karen Javitz, Liz Salerno, Debbie Solomon, Lori Steck

Gift Wrap

Pick-up date for all orders will be on November 14th.

Any questions contact: Stacy Garber, Susan Luckman, Jill Podell, Tammi Stempel, Janet Wiseltier

Holiday Boutique

This year, the boutique will be held December 12th – 14th. Wonderful new items will be available for the children to do some holiday shopping for family and friends.

Any questions contact: Tami Cohen, Robyn Corbin, Pamela Flink, Amanda Lazare, Wendy Scheman

Membership

To date, 20 families have not joined the PTA. We are trying for 100% enrollment, so please join if you have not done so already.

Any questions contact: Beth Gittler, Randi Marcus, Lenore Schiff

Multi-Cultural

This committee addresses the needs of the diverse population of the community so that parents of every culture feel comfortable and are encouraged to get involved.

A luncheon is being planned at Fanatico, and a booth will be set up at Carnival.

Any questions contact: Rosamaria Catania, Daborah Lee, Shari Yardeni, Jieun Yoo

SEPTA

The next meeting is scheduled for November 28th in the Middle School Library at 7:30pm.

The guest speaker is Janice McQuaid, and the topic is “Study Skills: Maximizing Your Study Time”, a workshop for both parents and students.

Any questions contact: Sherri Cila

Sweatshirt Sale

Delivery of orders will be in December. An announcement/flyer will be sent out shortly with the exact date and necessary information for picking up your order.

Any questions contact: Michelle Berger, Jill Caspe, Barbara Chananya, Susan Gordon, Tara Matchton, Samantha Ripka, Stacey Rothstein, Jen Stoler

Guest Speaker: Dr. Norman Fried

Dr. Fried spoke on the topic “Parent Coaching – How to Stop Your Kids from Bullying You”.

The overall goal is to set limits for your children and to teach them to cope with their parents being disciplinarians. The ideal type of discipline involves Positive Reinforcement (verbal praise) and Negative Punishment (removal of a privilege or a time-out for children under the age of 6).

There are ten key rules to follow to establish successful discipline in addition to the ideal balance of Positive Reinforcement and Negative Punishment.

- 1) Do not negotiate with children! The negotiation process itself is a form of reward to the child.
- 2) Present a unified front, and do not undermine your spouse.
- 3) Agree to disagree about discipline behind closed doors. (see above)
- 4) Accept the fact that your child will not love you at the time of punishment.
- 5) You must re-fuel yourselves as parents, both individually and as a couple.
- 6) Wrestle with your guilt, but leave it outside of the room. (Do not let your child know you feel guilt over disciplining them.)
- 7) Punishments and consequences must be consistent.
- 8) Make a list of 15-20 things that your kids do that annoy you: pick the top two things from this list that you absolutely cannot ignore, and have consequences for ONLY those two behaviors. Forget about the rest.
- 9) Practice what you preach.
- 10) Shaping a desired behavior is essential.

