

Robert Seaman Elementary School

PTA General Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2006

PTA Presidents Beth Cohen and Diane Frisenda:

Welcome back to all, especially new families. Introduction of Board Members present including Barbara Krieger and Shawn Gladstone. Also present Superintendent of Schools Hank Grishman, and Mary Marks, Director of Public Information and Community Relations.

Special Guest Speaker; Felicia from *Photography by Felicia*.

Introduction of Executive Board Committee:

Exec Vice President: Sheree Levy

Co-Vice Presidents: Debie Brody and Sherri Cila

Treasurer: Sandra Galu

Secretary: Nancy Shanker

Special thanks to:

Mr. Ratner and custodial staff for an excellent first day.

The Hospitality Committee for setting up coffee and bagels, especially Rosamaria Catania

The Sunshine Committee for the welcome back basket for the teachers.

The Bulletin Board Committee for decorating the board in the Welcome Back to School Theme.

The Sweatshirt Committee for working over the summer getting all of the new wonderful items ready for sale by the first week of school.

The 5th Grade and Yearbook Committees for their work over the summer in preparation for the beginning of the school year.

The Executive Committee for all their hard work over the summer.

Each Committee is responsible for making their own flyers to promote their event. Only Beth and/or Diane can approve flyers. Once approved, they should be forwarded to Mr. Ratner on the same day they are to be emailed. The top of each flyer should read *Robert Seaman PTA*. If copies need to be made, please contact the publicity committee. They will need at least a weeks notice. If flyers are needed earlier, the committee member must make his/her own copies and distribute them. The schools' printer may be used, but only after or before school hours. Please remember no phone numbers should be listed on the email flyers, only committee members names and a notice to check your PTA Contact List for the numbers. Look for a copy of the contact list in your child's backpack next week. There will always be extra copies available in the office. The school handbook will be available shortly and only on line. Visit the district website www.jerichschools.org to view and to print a hard copy.

Beth, Diane or the three Vice Presidents can sign contracts with outside vendors.

Purchases from the PTA budget from last year's profits include bright gold t-shirts to be worn by all students on class trips and a missing swing in the playground is being replaced.

Secretary's Report: Nancy Shanker

Reminded to everyone to sign the attendance form being passed around. Also requested a written agenda from all committee members who plan on speaking at the meetings.

Treasurer Report: Sandra Galu

Last years balance carried forward was \$26,575. \$12,000 of this money was invested in a 7 month CD due to mature by Feb 2007. This year we had a very generous anonymous donation by a Seaman Family in the amount of \$2500. The 5th grade budget carried forward was \$781.

There is a new policy for committee reimbursements. Recipients are entitled to reimbursement of expenses 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.

Executive Vice President: Sheree Levy

Everyone needs to bring \$25 in for class dues at Meet the Teacher Night. Exact change is appreciated. There is still opportunity to sign up as a Room Rep. Head Room Reps must make sure that all parents sign off on the consent form. This must be completed before the class list can be sent home. This year there will not be a phone chain. There are three ways to find out about school closings:

1. Check the website: www.jerichoschools.org
2. An e-mail will be sent to you directly from the Director of Technology
3. Check Channel 12 News

All school closing decisions are made by 6:00 am.

Sign up for subscriptions to our 2 local papers. The Syosset Jericho Tribune and Jericho News Journal. It is a great way for the kids to see themselves in the paper. You can also pick-up a copy at the Jericho Deli located in the Marshalls Shopping Center.

Mr. Ratner's Report

This letter is being written before the arrival of the children for the official opening day of school. For the staff, however, the year is already in full swing. Much was accomplished over the summer in getting the school ready for its September opening. The building glistens with freshly waxed floors and new paint as needed and our Computer Lab boasts brand new computers. We spent a good part of the summer organizing, planning, and scheduling our classes, ordering and checking in tens of thousands of dollars of supplies and equipment, and readying our student management system data and preparing for e-mail correspondence. **We send all school/PTA information out via e-mail. Please be sure that you keep your e-mail address up-to-date.**

Federal and statewide mandates and new assessments continue to necessitate curricular revisions across the grades. Accordingly, our teachers receive in-service training throughout the summer as well as during the school year. In personnel matters, Mrs. Denise Misiti moves back to Fourth Grade and Mrs. Patricia Glasser moves to Fifth Grade. Ms. Leslie DeGioia, our new Orchestra teacher, and Inclusion specialists Mrs. Mariann Diaz, Ms. Samantha Graziose, Mrs. Karen Lee, Ms. Ellen Widelitz, and Ms. Nancy Wilson join a special group of experienced and caring professionals to provide dedicated service to our youngsters.

PTA Co-Presidents Beth Cohen and Diane Frisenda, the Executive Board, and the many PTA committees have planned new and wonderful shows, activities, and services for students and their families. The Seaman PTA is pleased to provide your child with a **school T-Shirt to be worn on all school trips**. By wearing our school shirts, our children will be readily identifiable to our chaperones.

World-class schools, like ours, are acutely aware of the need for constant reflection and reshaping. Throughout the year, I will write to you about these curricular changes, exciting new programs, and special school events. This school year, the start of the second decade since Seaman re-opened in 1996, promises to be an exciting one with many learning experiences, both time-tested and brand-new, for all of our students. We all look forward to 2006-2007!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bulletin Board

This committee is responsible for decorating the Bulletin Board promoting upcoming events.

Any questions contact: Barrie Kornberg, Dana Kossoy, Kerri Lewis

Family Photo Day- October 21st (Cynthia Simoncic)

The photo shoot lasts 10-15 minutes and costs \$45. (prepaid) You must sign up for a specific time and the committee will get back to you to confirm. The photo package includes (1) 8x10 (2) 5x7 and (8) wallets. Photos may be ordered in color, black and white or sepia. Proofs will be ready Oct 28th.

Guest speaker Felicia from Photography by Felicia brought in samples of her work to display.

These photos are great ideas for holiday cards. Proofs can be kept with a minimum purchase of \$300.

If you are unable to attend proof day she has a studio located in Sea Cliff.

Any questions contact: Amy Jaffee, Jennifer Marshall, Randi Montanez, Cynthia Simoncic

Hospitality

This committee is responsible for setting up food and beverages for PTA Meeting and other events.

Any questions contact: Rosamaria Catania, Olga Bazakas

Multi-Cultural (NEW) (Shari Yardeni)

This committee addresses the needs of the diverse population of the community.

A sign up sheet was sent around for anyone interested in joining.

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

Boxtops/Cartridges for Kids (Suzanne Dobek)

Clip boxtops from a variety of food packages and send them in with your child. A box is set up in the office for collection. Every clipping is worth a \$0.10 to our school. It doesn't cost anything to join and is something everyone can do.

Boxtops is offering a promotion: They are giving out a reward to the school with the most registrants.

We ask that every family register. Robert Seaman School will receive \$0.50 for every person who signs up and will receive an extra bonus if we reach a certain goal. It is very easy, just go to

www.boxtops4education.com and designate Seaman School. Right now we only have 91 families registered.

While at the boxtops website register for their on line marketplace. Shop at Dell, Pottery Barn, Target, and many others. Our school will receive anywhere from 2%-10% of the purchase price.

Don't throw away your used toner cartridges, PDA's, cell phones and laptops. Our school can receive anywhere from a \$0.50- \$50 rebate for each one. There is a box in the office set up for collection.

Any questions contact: Stephanie Ginsberg, Susan Gordan, Suzanne Dobek.

Calendar (Shelly Bloch)

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

Class Photo Day Sept 27th (Natalie Sondike)

Order forms were sent home with each child. Please send your forms back no later that Sept 20th.

If your child was absent or you are dissatisfied with your photo, retake day will be November 13.

Any questions contact: Laura Cervoni, Barbara Chanyana, Kathy Distler, Jaclyn Ianiello, Amy Jaffee, Meredith Ritter, Lenore Schiff, Natalie Sondike

Costume Party Night Oct 27 (Jennifer Gross)

Formally known as Halloween Night the party will begin at 6:30pm and end 8:00pm. Once again we will have a D.J. at the party. Volunteers are needed as well as monetary and candy donations.

Any questions contact: Shari Arzanipour, Justine Feinberg, Tammy Fine, Jennifer Gross, Jaclyn Ianniello, Irina Josinsky, Alison Kyler-Wank, Michelle Mesbah, Jieun Yoo, Tami Brinster

Community Service

October 6, we are collecting gently used coats for our annual Coat Drive. Both adult and youth coats are appreciated. Please empty the pockets before sending in the coats.

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

5th Grade (Stefanie Bower & Cherie Serota)

We have great items this year to raise funds for the 5th grade. A cooler, waterproof picnic blanket, dog tags, and even Jericho flip-flops are available. This year in February children will be able to design their own note cards to be printed and distributed by early spring. In addition, chocolate bars and water will be sold at every school event.

5th Grade Fridays

Approximately twice a month the fifth grade will be selling treats in the cafeteria. This year look for Ralph's Ices, Thanksgiving donuts, Spirit cookies and more. Flyers will be sent out prior to the sale.

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

5th Grade Yearbook (Debbie Solomon)

Please send in 1 picture (min 3x5) of your 5th grader (birth -1yr) no later than Oct 5th in an envelope marked 5th grade. A copy of the photo is suggested, do not send in the original. Parents going on trips are responsible for taking pictures of students.

*Please note that dates are critical. Flyers will be sent home with the children.

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

Gift Wrap (Tammi Stempel)

A catalog and order form from Miss Chocolate was sent home. The sale runs through October 31st, and delivery will be by the end of November in time for the holidays. This year the children will receive individual prizes based on how many products they sell.

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

Homecoming Sept 30 (Lisa Kiefer)

The parade will start at 9:30 near the tennis courts at the High School and end at the Middle School. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The theme this year is *Cities Around the World*, and Seaman's float represents "New York, New York".

Any questions contact: Lisa Kiefer, Sherri Taubes, Tom Taubes

Island Harvest (Jennifer Marshall)

Volunteers are needed to pick up food from local restaurants and deliver it to shelters. This is a great way to give back to the community. Deliveries are scheduled for Tuesdays and Fridays. Please sign up and a schedule will be set up to best accommodate all those who volunteer.

Any questions contact: Carol Acker, Caryn Brown, Jennifer Marshall, Amy Pahlavan, Missy Simon

Notepads/Cookbooks/Jayhawks (Jill Podell)

Notepads are being sold for \$2. This is a great way to communicate with your child's teacher. All the information is written out for you already, just fill in the blanks and sent it into school. Seaman family

recipes can be found in the cookbook (\$10), also being sold are beanie baby Jayhawks (\$5) and hot/cold cups (\$5)

Any questions contact: Allison Katz, Jill Podell, Cynthia Simoncic

Membership (Randi Marcus)

Only adults can become a member of the PTA. Individual memberships cost \$7. You must be a member of the PTA to be a room rep and participate in class trips and parties, or be on a PTA committee.

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

Newsletter SeamanSez (Stephanie Mark)

Any upcoming events please forward an article two weeks in advance to Stephanie Mark at stephmark@optonline.net.

SEPTA (Sherri Cila)

Please help support SEPTA. You do not need to have a child with special needs to join. They have great speakers lined up, a benefit to everyone. Speakers include Planned Parenthood; “Tough Talk About Teen Sexuality”, Eric Chessen; “Alternative to Team Sports” and many more.

Extra flyers are always available in the office.

Any questions contact: Sherri Cila

Sweatshirt (Jen Stoler)

This year we have some great new items for the sweatshirt sale including leggings, studded t-shirts, tanks, and sweats. A display of these items will be shown in the cafeteria on the evenings of Meet the Teacher Night.

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

Jericho Educational Foundation (JEF)- Jess Rudolph

In it's second year, this group was designed to help cover costs in the community that the school budget doesn't. Some projects include the refurbishment of the Little Theater in the High School. \$20,000 is still need for the upgrades; the theater has not been renovated since 1939.

The JEF has been selected to participate in the Americana Manhasset Champions for Charity being held Nov 29-Dec3. Shop at Americana or Wheatley Plaza Shopping Centers and 25% of your purchases go to JEF. You must register online at www.jerichoeducationalfoundtion.org; it is free and confidential. Registration begins Oct 1.

Any questions contact Laura Gladstone at laura@jerichoeducationalfoundation.org .

The JEF is hosting a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament Nov 10. Entry fees will be \$300 for a team up to 4 players. The top 3 teams will receive cash prizes. All entrants receive a free t-shirt.

Any questions contact larryh@misschocolate.com

Please attend the next Board of Education Meeting Sept 21st @ 7:30 at the Middle School Library. The next PTA meeting will be Oct 11th @ 9:00 in the cafeteria.

