

President Debora Connor opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Motion to accept November PTO Minutes approved.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report approved.

Mr. Kelley's Report

- The MCAS breakfast was a great success. 67 people were served breakfast one day and 125 people were served breakfast another day. The event was very well received. It was a nice opportunity to recognize students who don't always get recognized.
- The Instructional Leadership Team has been trying to improve the results of the open-ended response questions in the MCAS.
- MAPS testing starts next week and will run through the end of February.
- Grade level projects will be starting in late February/early March. The Kindergarten Show will take place on June 11.
- During the week of February 1, students will be given mock MCAS tests in the area of language arts in order to give them a sense of what to expect when taking the real test.
- \$2,300 of the \$5,000 library grant was spent on new tables and chairs for the library.
- On January 21, a workshop for library volunteers at all Worcester schools will be held at Nelson Place.
- We have collected \$580 to send to the American Red Cross to help the people in Haiti. Donations will be accepted until Friday, January 22.

Treasurer's Report – Barry McGrath

- We took in around the same amount as we paid out.
- The bake sale raised \$268 for the playground fund.

Newsletter – Meg Mulhern

- Debbie Jerszyk is doing a wonderful job with the newsletter and she is good about sending out reminders and deadlines. If committee chairs or others have items to add to the newsletter, please send them to Debbie. Even if you don't have anything for the newsletter on a given month, please respond to Debbie to let her know. The newsletter is such a great way to keep parents informed about the goings on at Nelson Place.

Enrichment Committee – Gretchen Switzer

- No decisions have been made about programs for the spring.

Family Nights – Meg Mulhern

- Oliver has been scheduled for Saturday, April 24 at 2:00 pm at the Hanover Theater. Meg was able to secure a 15% discount for a group rate and another 25% discount from a trustee. The tickets will cost only \$11 each! 175 tickets have been booked in the lower-level orchestra seating area. A flyer will come home next week.
- Tornadoes night will be opening night again this year – Thursday, June 3. Students from Nelson Place will be singing the national anthem.
- Since Pumpkin Night was so successful and such a fabulous deal was secured for the Hanover tickets, \$1,300 from the Family Nights budget will be used to purchase 435 Nelson Place t-shirts for the students. This year, the t-shirts will be red and white tie-dye.
- Looking into the possibility of a movie at Showcase Cinemas. A staff development day or a day during February vacation might be a good time to schedule it. It depends on what movies are at theaters. The movie chosen should be rated G. Tickets will be \$3.

### Fundraising – Deb Steigman

- The proceeds from the Entertainment Book and Yankee Candle fundraisers were just under \$9,000.
- Do people want to do spring fundraising? We aren't planning anything, but we can. Square One Art was mentioned. It's a good fundraiser because people like to buy products with their children's artwork on them. It could be planned to coincide with Mother's Day. Deb will look into it. A flock pink flamingos fundraiser was also mentioned. The premise is this: Someone would pay \$1 per flamingo to be delivered overnight to another person's front yard. Paying a nominal fee for the removal of the flamingos is optional. Lots of volunteers would be needed for flamingo delivery and removal.

### Books & Beyond and TRIPP – Jill Andros

- The Books & Beyond Medal Ceremony will be held on Friday, March 26 at 9:30 am for grades K and 1 and at 10:15 for grades 2 and 3.
- The TRIPP Carnival is scheduled for Friday, June 4 at 1:30 pm.

### Hospitality – Deb Steigman

- Teacher appreciation day will be held during the first week of May.
- If anyone knows someone who is sick, let Deb Steigman know, so she can organize hospitality for them.

### Library – Peggi Harris

- The library got new furniture and was able to purchase Mrs. Imbergamo's art books.
- Library will be closed from January 26 until February 25 for MAPS testing.
- Library will be closed March 5 through March 12 for the Scholastic Book Fair.

### Box Tops – Maureen Economou (Tony Economou provided the update)

- \$1,239.80 check was received from Box Tops for Education. Keep sending in those Box Tops.

### Scholastic Book Fair – Gretchen Switzer

- The book fair will take place on Monday, March 8 through Wednesday, March 10
- The Build a Book family event will be held on March 8 from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm. The book fair will also be open at that time, so volunteers are needed.
- Deb Wessles will be helping Gretchen with the book fair this year, but although she is kind enough to help this year, she is not willing to take over and be the chairperson next year. Gretchen has been running the book fair for 4 years now and that's enough. She needs to train someone to take over next year. The nice thing about being the chair for the book fair is that it is one week and then you are done. It doesn't need to be elaborate and Scholastic is really easy to work with. Gretchen would really, really like this year to be her last, so she is hoping that somebody will express an interest in taking over.
- The theme this year will be Book Fair Diner – All You Can Read. Visit the Nelson Place/Scholastic website at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/nelsonplace>.

### Playground – Beth Proko

- Less than \$2,500 left to raise for the playground maintenance fund.
- The next fundraiser will take place on Wednesday, January 27 from 3:30 until 9:30 pm at the Texas Roadhouse in Lincoln Plaza. 20% of all dine-in, take-out and even bar sales will go to the playground fund, when the flyer is presented. Download a flyer at <http://www.nelsonplacepto.org/PDF%20Files/TX%20Roadhouse.pdf>. There have also been 6 raffle items donated for this event.

#### Operation Turkey – Gretchen Switzer

- 8 families received funds or canned goods.

#### Holiday Store – Dave Francis

- The holiday store was very successful. It was well received by both kids and adults. It was very, very great and fantastic and \$500 of the profits were donated to the Union Hill School in Worcester. Thanks to Deb Steigman for all of her help.

#### CPPAC (Citywide Parent Planning Advisory Council) – Deb Steigman

- Meets first Tuesday of each month at the downtown library at Salem Square. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. The next meeting will be held on February 2 and Dr. Boone will speak about the budget process. Minutes from the meeting are posted at [http://cppac.worcesterschools.org/modules/locker/files/group\\_files.phtml?parent=4130410&gid=1112792&sessionid=b2eee3fa231009a56192164c6d2898ff](http://cppac.worcesterschools.org/modules/locker/files/group_files.phtml?parent=4130410&gid=1112792&sessionid=b2eee3fa231009a56192164c6d2898ff). or go to the Worcester Public Schools website at <http://worcesterschools.org/>, then click on the Parents/Students tab, then select CPPAC.
- On Saturday, January 30, an event will take place at Tilton Hall at Clark University (950 Main Street) from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. The goal is to get 4 to 5 representatives from each school in the city to take part in a best practices discussion, so please let other parents know about the opportunity. Dr. Boone, Dr. Mulqueen and other administrators will be present. Share ideas and listen to hopes and dreams. Just showing up will speak volumes. Please contact Dawn to register at 508-791-9277 or [delsjohn@aol.com](mailto:delsjohn@aol.com). Translation will be provided. Light refreshments will be served. Child care provided.

#### Stand For Children

- National and State offices have been working to push through Race to the Top.
- Stand was getting away from local issues and should next be focused on issues pertaining to Worcester schools.

#### New Business

- A survey was conducted to best determine a set day of the week and week of the month for future PTO meetings.
- Dave Francis proposed hiring someone to paint the concrete walls behind the school. The incentive was met with enthusiasm, but concerns about cost. Initial estimate was \$1,500. A discussion ensued about what type of mural to paint and whether or not to let the children paint, but children painting was deemed too scary. Essentially, there is interest in having this done. Perhaps we could ask the painter to break down the cost in terms of paint and labor and get some of the paint donated. Dave will run with this and come up with a proposal in terms of layout, timeline, cost, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

After the meeting, the results of the survey were tallied. An overwhelming majority indicated that the preferred day for PTO meetings was the third Wednesday of each month. There will be no PTO meeting in February, due to school vacation.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Landry  
PTO Secretary