

President Debora Connor opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Motion to accept March PTO Minutes approved.

Mr. Kelley's Report

- The first round of MCAS (English/Language Arts) has finished. The math/science portion of the MCAS will begin on May 10. We'll serve breakfast to the group that is testing each morning.
- Some of Mrs. Imbergamo's students' work will be exhibited at UMass Medical Center on Saturday, May 8 from 2:30 until 4 pm.
- Mrs. Racine is out indefinitely for medical reasons.
- Mr. Kelley has to defend the number of teachers that we have in our building. Currently, we have 19 teachers and he has heard that we are scheduled to have one position cut, but he is optimistic that he can get the position back.
- The Worcester Forestry Department will be planting 9 trees in front of our school. Some children will watch and the Forestry Department people will talk to them about the importance of planting trees.
- The Worcester Public Schools have a celebration each year where people involved with the schools are recognized. It is held at the Worcester technical High School. Secretary of the Year and Custodian of the Year are some examples of people who are recognized. The Thomas Jefferson Award for outstanding volunteerism at schools is also presented. Deb Steigman from Nelson Place was a recipient last year. Please forward any nominations for the Thomas Jefferson Award to Mr. Kelley by May 5.
- There has been a lot of talk about plans to restructure Worcester Public Schools. There are no plans to put anything new in place next year. They are considering what changes need to be made with the reorganization. Parents are invited to join Dr. Mulqueen for a conversation about current levels of student performance and to share ideas for improvement on Tuesday, May 4 from 6 - 7:30 pm at Flagg Street School. It is really important that parents attend.
- The School Committee voted last night to accept money for Union Hill and Chandler Elementary Schools.
- We are getting ready for the next round of MCAS through tier teaching, in which children are grouped by level and spend 45 minutes each day preparing for the MCAS with other children with similar skills. Grades 3-6 have already begun the tier teaching program and grade 2 will begin after April vacation. Then, we'll see what teachers think and how students react to it. So far, it seems to be going well.

Treasurer's Report – Barry McGrath

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report accepted.

Enrichment - Gretchen Switzer

- On Thursday, April 15, Molly Sullivan Sliney, from the U.S. Olympic Fencing Team, will speak to the children in grades K-6. She is an inspirational speaker who grew up with dyslexia and she will talk about overcoming challenges and setting goals.
- On Tuesday, April 27, Kim Bent from "Catch the Science Bug" on PBS will give a presentation to grades 1,2 & 4 on where our drinking water comes from. At a later date, she will speak to each of the kindergarten classes individually about polar bears and other animal habitats.
- Pumpkinickle Puppets will do a show for grades K & 1 in June.

Scholastic Book Fair – Gretchen Switzer

- Book Fair profit was \$7,000. We'll get \$3,500 worth of books from Scholastic, since we chose to receive our profits in books rather than money. We still have \$3,000 from last year

that has not been spent yet, so we currently have \$6,598 to spend on books. We need some up-to-date reference books and hard-cover children's books. Gretchen Switzer, Mrs. Quitadamo, Peggi Harris and Karen Naylor have agreed to choose and buy books with the money.

- Motion to leave it to the quorum of 4 to decide how to spend the money was seconded and accepted.
- Amy Hurley has volunteered to take over book fair next year. Gretchen will do the creative end and Amy will handle the business end.

Family Nights – Meg Mulhern was not present. Debora Connor spoke on her behalf

- Tornadoes night will be on Thursday, June 3. Students from Nelson Place will be singing the national anthem. Mrs. Kolo has begun to teach the children the national anthem. Ticket order forms will come home after April vacation.
- Order forms went home for Nelson Place T-Shirts.

Books & Beyond and TRIPP – Jill Andros was not present. Debora Connor spoke on her behalf.

- The Books & Beyond Medal Ceremony took place on Friday, March 26.
- Jill has asked the PTO for an additional \$100 for the TRIPP Carnival. Motion accepted.

Fundraising – Deb Steigman

- We will do the Entertainment Book fundraiser in September.
- What other fundraiser are people most interested in? Yankee Candle, cookie dough with no trans-fats, Square 1 Art (gifts such as keychains, t-shirts, mousepads, etc. are made with children's own artwork)? We'll vote at the next meeting.

Hospitality – Deb Steigman

- Teacher appreciation will be held during the first week of May. A breakfast will be prepared by parent volunteers and there will be something special going on each day of the week. A flyer seeking volunteers to bake items or help serve will be going home soon.

Library - Peggi Harris

- The library will be closed for MCAS testing in May. There are only 4 or 5 weeks of classroom visits to the library left this school year.
- Mr. Kelley said that the library can be open after noon during the MCAS testing, since we are only testing one class at a time this year.

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

- \$1,200 raised in box tops this year. Keep sending them in.

Playground – Beth Proko was not present – Debora Connor provided the update

- A yard sale to benefit the playground fund will take place on Saturday, April 17 at 2 Holden Street from 9 am to noon.

CPPAC (Citywide Parent Planning Advisory Council) – Deb Steigman

- It is very important that parents attend the discussions about the reorganization of Worcester Public Schools. You can attend any session:

- Wed, April 28 at Roosevelt Elementary School
- Monday, May 3 at Clark Street Elementary School
- Tuesday, May 4 at Flagg Street Elementary School
- all will take place from 6 - 7:30 pm

Stand For Children

- Stand has been lobbying at the state house for level funding. It's looking like we'll get a 4% cut next year.
- There are several Stand chapters in Worcester and it would be beneficial to merge the chapters to represent the entire city of Worcester.
- Stand was influential with the school committee vote to accept the money for Union Hill and Chandler Elementary Schools.
- Stand, as a national organization, is changing it's focus to urban communities more so than suburban communities. All underperforming schools in MA are in urban areas. Stand intends to reduce the achievement gap.

New Business

- Mrs. Imbergamo would like 2 18" x 34" mats for the artwork that will be on display at UMass Memorial. The cost is \$30. Motion to grant \$30 for mats accepted.
- The school nurse needs electrodes, child/infant pads and a lithium battery for the defibrillator (purchased 3 years ago). The cost is \$500. Motion accepted. Mr. Kelly will look into some of the details about the machine and provide us with an update.
- The Memorial Day show will take place on Friday, May 28 at 1 pm.
- The next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19. There will be no PTO meeting in June. Elections for next year's PTO board will be held at the May meeting. Barry McGrath and Meg Mulhern have decided not to continue, so the Treasurer and VP positions are open. Both Deborah Connor and Pam Landry are willing to continue as officers, but would gladly step down, should anyone else be interested in the President or Secretary position. If you would like to nominate someone (and feel free to nominate yourself), please leave a note in the PTO mailbox in the office by May 14. Nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary are all welcome. All nominations will be posted on a ballot and voting will take place at the May PTO meeting.
- Mrs. Quitadamo's class is going to publish and sell a poetry book. Proceeds will go to Hole in the Wall Gang, a non-profit established by Paul Newman to benefit seriously ill children. Order forms will be coming home as soon as the books are in. The cost will be \$10 per book.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Landry
PTO Secretary