

**Loudon Elementary School PTA  
Meeting Minutes  
April 3, 2008**

**In attendance:** Christine Campbell, Sharon Graham, Jenn Becker, Sue Kowalski, Brandon Raymond, Amanda Masse, Julie Barker, Cathy Klapproth, Tom Laliberte, Alicia Grimaldi, Jenn Pfeifer, Cindy Labonte, Susan Gelinis.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jenn reported there had been little activity. The balance of the PTA checking account was \$13,363.39. Another \$4021.41 was in the Reserve account. \$8926.82 was the balance of expenditures for the current budget year.

**By-laws:** Christine announced that the PTA's by-laws needed to be reviewed and submitted by June 30, 2008. A by-laws committee was formed: Julie Barker, Amanda Masse, Sharon Graham, Tom Laliberte, Jenn Becker and Christine Campbell.

**Maxfield Library's Summer Reading Program:** In keeping with the PTA's history of supporting the summer reading program, Christine invited the Cheryl Ingerson, Children's Librarian, to attend the June PTA meeting.

**Literacy Night, April 17, 5:30-7:30 pm, LES Gym:** Jessica Manseau from the NH Parent Information Center will conduct an information session on Early Childhood Literacy. The PTA needs to help in the following areas:

- Activity tables will be set up for children. Ms. Jenks will help supply materials for these tables. Members are needed to supervise activities. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
- Dinner – the PTA will pay for the food and Cindy Labonte and Jenn Pfeifer volunteered to prepare the food for a healthy buffet.
- The PTA will provide white handled bags for families to hold their handouts. It was suggested the children decorate the bags at one of the activity tables.
- A raffle will be held for a gift for an adult and a gift for a child. It was agreed to do a gift card (perhaps Borders) for the adult and a backpack filled with school supplies for the child, \$25 each.

**Teacher/Parent Surveys:** Christine has been concerned about lack of teacher involvement at PTA events and felt a survey would help the PTA understand why. She and Amanda Masse perused samples of PTA surveys on line and came up with a survey for teachers and another for parents. They were passed around for comment. She asked Mr. Laliberte to encourage teachers to fill out the surveys. She hopes the information will help the next PTA board in making decisions.

**Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, May 5-9:**

- The PTA will hold the traditional breakfast on Friday, May 9, 8:15 am. Laurie Cowan volunteered to coordinate the food donations and set-up but she needs to be relieved to get to work that morning. Christine and Sue said they would both be there.

- The teachers present were asked to speak to the other teachers about what they would like for a gift this year. There is a \$500 line item in the budget.
- Last year Christine involved the students in showing their appreciation by sending home two paper ice cream scoops on which they could write what they appreciated about a teacher or staff member at LES. The scoops were returned and put in a large paper sundae bowl on the cafeteria bulletin board. It was agreed that the activity was successful and a suggestion was made to do flowers placed on a background of grass this year. Sue will prepare the hand-out and send it home on Monday, April 28 for students to return the week of May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Computer Request:** Mr. Laliberte repeated his request that the PTA consider purchasing new laptop computers for the computer lab so that current laptops can be moved to classrooms to replace very old PC's. The PTA felt this would be good use of the reserve fund and decided to look into the cost of purchasing 2 or 3 new computers and vote at the May meeting.

**Yearbook:** Laurie Cowan reported that the yearbook would be 28 black and white pages and 4 color pages costing between \$1500 and \$1600. To do the book with 28 pages in color would cost about \$2200. The PTA considered using some of our surplus to print in color. Laurie said she could report back in May with more accurate figures and the PTA could vote then.

**Eater Egg Hunt:** Julie Barker reported that they filled 2666 eggs. Candy donations were down and the event was not as well attended as in the past. Members speculated about the early date and snowy conditions.

**Mildred Lampron Scholarship:** Christine stressed the fact that Sharon Drake wanted to be involved in the decision and presentation of the award. It was agreed that it was early yet and the May meeting would be the time to form a committee to review the applications.

**Fall Fundraiser:** Julie Barker shared handouts from various companies. Cherrydale and Genevieve have catalogs of gift items that we have used in the past but with Genevieve's we'd keep 50% compared to Cherrydale's 40%. Uncle Jerry's Tees was popular with the members but Mrs. Klapproth said the Art Fund might use that fundraiser in the future. There was concern that the PTA would need to do a spring fundraiser in 2009 due to the loss of funds from race car parking and the LYAA/PTA golf tournament. Mr. Laliberte said he would check on the MVSD's fundraising policies. The subject will be revisited in May.

**Yard Sale:** Christine reported that people had been asking if the PTA was holding a yard sale this spring. Lee Laughlin has volunteered to organize a yard sale involving renting table space as well as the PTA selling donated items but it would have to be in the fall. The membership decided to take Lee up on her offer and hold the yard sale in the fall.

**Calendar Raffle/Silent Auction/Old Home Day:** There was discussion about doing a calendar raffle as was done in May/June 2006. It was agreed the silent auction at Old Home Day in 2007 did not bring in the return for the amount of work that was invested. A raffle format (similar to

Santa's breakfast) was considered. Laurie Cowan suggested the PTA host a completely different event that would be fun for the children, like a dunking booth or pie throwing contest (at teachers??). Sue reported that the Cub Scouts planned on having the dunking booth again this year. The PTA will revisit ideas at the May meeting.

**Guest Speakers on transitioning between grades, May 8:** The PTA has invited Diana Jenkins, a guidance counselor, and Patricia Severance, Assistant Principal, from Merrimack Valley Middle School to talk about transitioning from one grade to the next.

**PTA Officers/2008-2009 Budget** – Terms for the current officers expire in June. Elections for incoming officers will be held at the June meeting. Christine encouraged anyone interested in serving. Nominations will be made at the May meeting. There is concern about all the officers' terms expiring at once and whether the by-laws can assure there is some overlap of new and veteran officers. The 2008-2009 budget will also be voted on at the June meeting.

**Other business:**

- Laurie Cowan reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade t-shirts were in and she just needed to line up someone to hand them out during the award ceremony on the last day of school which is currently set for Wednesday, June 25.
- Christine reported that she was asked by Mrs. Patenaude if the PTA was going to donate to the Katie Silva Scholarship. Katie was a student at LES when she died in a car accident. This is the year she would have graduated and one of Katie's friends fundraised for the scholarship for her senior project. Christine said she would find out more information and the membership agreed to vote on this at the May meeting.

The next PTA meeting will be Thursday, May 1, 6:30 pm