

**GREAT MEADOWS REGIONAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
PTO MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2012**

I. Welcome - Call to order 7:08 – Introduction of Mr. Mango, new Superintendent – In March he interviewed with Hackettstown and talked about shared services; hired as Superintendent of Hackettstown and expressed interest in shared services with other communities should the opportunity arise. When Dr. Fredericks retired we had an opportunity for financial gain for Liberty, Independence & Hackettstown as well as intellectual gain. K-8 will work as one in these communities. Mr. Mango said he is transparent and candid; happy to answer any questions. Lives in Hope. Contract until June 2016.

After Minutes approval we will do teacher's grants to let them leave if they would like to.

**II. September PTO Minutes – Motion to accept Lauri & Gloria all in favor; passed
September Treasurer's Report – question from Lauri about Dorney Park; question from
Karen Grove re Kids Stuff Entertainment Books – Motion to accept Lauri & second Gloria
all in favor pass**

**III. Open Committee Positions – Please consider volunteering – You will have a committee
of parents to help you**

Committee Chairs needed 2012-2013 School Year:

Book Fair – Liberty

Family Fun Nights – many volunteers just need a chair

Field Day Liberty – many volunteers just need a chair

Hospitality – Central & Liberty

Kindergarten Orientation

Staff Appreciation – Central

Workshop/Office Help for Liberty – **need to put a plea out for volunteers**

IV. Events started/completed since last meeting-Committee chair reports

Directory Cover Contest – Karen & Gloria – went well – winners were announced on Friday

School Directory – going to print soon; missing information from 180 families; Mr.

Batha will see if there is a way we can get the contact info from the school

Back to School Nights – went well

Kid Stuff & Entertainment Books – complete; 24 books have not been returned

Box Top Contest – winners were announced on Friday

September Market Day – becoming difficult to manage, Kris spoke with the Chair, sales are down, Gloria said there are many volunteers who want to help with this and sent the list to the Chair

Halloween Costume Fundraiser - \$32 so far

Room Parents /PAC (Central) – Mr. Batha will write a letter about PAC and then Nickole will post it on the website

First Assembly – Karen Grove -George Street Playhouse – went well; Liberty kids were laughing, kids loved it; Different Dance Styles @ Liberty; December 12th Fitness Frenzy??; Jan 8th Character Education Light Show
Birthday Book Club

Spirit Wear - The order forms for the Spirit Wear were approved by the PTO. They were distributed on **Oct 5th** and they are due by **Oct 31st**.

Families in Need Committee – Volunteers for this committee have been contacted. Ideas for this year include a school supply closet, Halloween Costume drive, Valentine Day Card donations, Food drives for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, Holiday Shop Vouchers, Lunch Donations and Clothing Drive

V. New Business

Vote on Teacher Grants – received 9 – changed the process with 2 deadlines – Mrs. Coppola 2 times due to balance from grant last year – would like to apply to the bean bag chair request

Early Learning Center \$360-Mrs Romagnoli (K) from prior school year - request from last year that got delayed; dry erase, magnetic board, holds big books in place; readers & writers workshop; houses all of the materials; help to create a self-contained center for readers & writers workshop

18 Flat Panel Computer Monitors for computer lab \$1544 to \$1574-Mrs Kotcho – available via phone if we have questions; is this covered by Board of Ed budget asked by Karen Grove – Mr. Batha, maybe, but budget is finite, Mr. Mango says that they will be developing a wish list for the schools; Laurie Prymak not in favor if there is a possibility that the school budget will cover, especially if we have working monitors; stated this seems a higher ticket item than a PTO should cover

Magnetic Alphabet letters/magnetic boards and easel/sentence dominoes and building kit \$131-\$225 + shipping-Mrs Redus (Basic Skills) – new position for Mrs. Redus; many hands on learners; color coding, tactile; works in small groups so easel is helpful; K-2; expand the modality of working with these students

Books and bean bag chairs \$269 Mrs Zino (2nd) – looking to expand library of nonfiction books; bean bags for reading forest; free time is reading time

13 Franklin Spellers \$493 Mrs King (3rd) – to help improve spelling, reading and writing in the classroom; phonetic speller

Bean Bag Chairs \$171-225 Mr Coppola, Mrs Washburn, Mrs Woods (2nd) – to go along with reading workshop; to establish comfortable areas in the classroom, child friendly seat during reading and free reading time

Owl Pellets \$199 Mrs Coppola (2nd) – 100 sterilized owl pellets; when the owl regurgitates; food chain curriculum; use tweezers and magnifying glasses to look at the remains.

Replacement heads for hole punch Mrs Araki (Liberty) – she did her price research

2 Ipads \$926 Mrs Benbrook (1st) and Mrs Woods (2nd) – readers workshop program; many apps on phonics, fluency, multiplayer apps as well as can be used individually; math apps as well; teachers can make their own quizzes to come up in game format; Karen Grove asked if teachers would share the apps for kids to use at home; Mr Batha added that they have most of the inclusion students who would benefit from the additional modality; the ipad would stay within Central school may move with the teacher if still in Central School

Mrs. Washburn asked for reimbursement \$90 for purchased bins for books

All teacher grants passed with the exception of Mrs. Kotcho's request for monitors.

VI. Current/Upcoming Events (Kris or Chairs)

Book Fair Central – November 2-7

Book Fair Liberty – December 3rd – 7th

Halloween Costume Fundraiser Due Date up until 28th or 29th

Market Day – pick up 10/15

Custodian Appreciation Day – Moved to June

Trunk or Treat 10/19/12 – other events happening; boyscouts at Central Café and Game Night at Middle School

Harvest Day/Fall Festival 10/19/12 – Mrs. Hart; scarecrow making; tractor and wagon hayride; food drive; popcorn wagon; story reading (Mr. Mango); afternoon square dance; sing along in the gym

Labels for Education – still collecting; January/February Soup Party for most labels in the class

Kids Vote – during lunch; theme day; animal for Mr. Batha to kiss

VII. Open Discussion

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Our next meeting is November 7, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m. at the GMMS Café with free babysitting.