

**Springer PTA
Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 9, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm in the staff lounge. Attendance sheet is attached.

Call to Order and Welcome

Kathleen Stukenborg, PTA Co-President, called the meeting to order.

Student Council Update

Michelle Rubinstein (President) and Chloe Siegel (Vice-President) presented the Student Council update. Hot cocoa and candy cane sales raised \$400.00, which the Student Council used to buy toys for needy children. Friday, Jan. 19, is Twin Day. Wednesday, Feb. 14, is Jump Rope for Heart Day. Michelle and Chloe meet with Tim Justus once each month to discuss Student Council activities and ideas for improving the school. The Student Council is also sponsoring monthly music during lunch.

Principal's Report

Bob Celeste covered the following topics:

- January 8 was the National Geographic Geo Bee. Several fourth through sixth graders participated and answered some challenging questions about world geography. Mrs. Kathy Miller and several teachers assisted with the Geo Bee.
- January 23 is Kindergarten Orientation. This year, each school is putting on their own orientation meeting to personalize the information presented to parents. Kindergarten sign-ups will be held on February 1 at 7:00 am.
- January 24 is the Science Fair Kick-Off. Karen Mueller is chairing the science fair again this year. The sixth graders are participating all year long in the science fair. Jayne Amsden is working with several sixth graders who are preparing for the county science fair.
- January 14 is a teacher work day; the teachers will be working with the Step Up To Writing curriculum.
- The mid-year writing sample is coming up.
- Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring education events as part of the monthly PTA meetings. The topic for the February meeting is technology at work in the sixth grade classrooms.

Committee Reports

Technology (Andrew Towell)

- 32 new computers for the main lab have arrived and will be installed in the next two weeks. The lab will be shut down while the installation takes place. The new uniform main lab will be easier to maintain.
- The old computers from the main lab will be moved into the mini lab.
- An HP parent is donating four computers to the library.
- One-third of the PTA budget for 2006-07 is being spent on technology. This is a big year for technology. Bob Celeste also provided some additional funding for the main lab computers.

Silent Auction (Kimberly Dickerson)

- The theme for the silent auction is Springertime in Paris.
- The auction committee has been busy drumming up donations from vendors as well as the Springer community.
- The deadline for donations is Friday, Jan 26, and the auction book should be available in the Friday folders on the Friday before winter break.
- The auction will be at the Elks Lodge again this year; tickets are \$35 each.

Hot Chocolate Social (Wendy Sarathy)

- The hot chocolate social will be after school on Friday, Jan 19.
- So far supplies for the social are under budget (under \$100) for the whole community.
- There will be one more ice cream social at the end of Star Testing week.

Community Events

- *The Polar Express* evening story time (grades K-2) was a great event and a lot of fun for everyone who participated. Thanks to Carmel Caligaris who really went above and beyond the role of reader and did a wonderful job. A game night event is being planned for the upper grades.
- There will be an assembly on Thursday, Jan 11 at 9:00 (grades 4-6) and 10:20 (grades 1-3). John Pearson will be speaking at the assembly.
- The book fair will be held Jan 29 through Feb 2. The fair will be open at lunch time and after school Monday through Friday and from 6:00-8:00 pm Tuesday evening.
- On January 31, Denise Pope will present a lecture on "Overscheduling Your Child." This event is sponsored by all of the PTAs.
- The Springer PTA is trying hard this year to do more for the school than just spend money and purchase equipment and supplies, such as community events and noon-time and after-school clubs. The journalism club put out their first newsletter right before winter break.
- Boys Night Out will be a cosmic bowling and dinner event on Saturday, March 17. This event is sponsored by Rich Siegel. Girls Night Out will be an ice skating event (date TBD).

Treasurer's Report

Tina Klaassen reviewed the treasurer's report for the two months ending December 2006; this report will be filed for audit. MSC (Kimberly Dickerson, Karey Gutierrez) to ratify the checks for November and December.

Approval of Minutes

The November 2006 minutes were approved and will be filed as is.

Step Up to Writing Presentation

Judi Hultberg and Beth Rubinstein presented a typical fourth grade lesson from the Step Up to Writing program. This lesson explained the use of colors to identify topics (green), facts (yellow), examples and details (red), and conclusions (green). It also showed how the Step Up to Writing structure introduces the details of outlining to the students.

Judi and Beth had everyone participate in the lesson on writing a paragraph on the topic “My Winter Vacation.” This included using a two-column table format to identify facts on the left side and corresponding details and examples of each fact on the right side. Then they showed each group how to use the information in the table to create a paragraph, including topic sentences, transitions, and conclusions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Liz Malone
Secretary