

**Granger PTO Meeting News**  
**March 2009**  
**(15 in Attendance)**

**Secretary Report** from February 2009 was submitted and read by Collen DeGeorge and approved.

**Treasurer Report** – Gina Williams reviewed the PTO Treasurer report with line items for 3/8/2009. This was approved.

**PTO Guest Speaker** - Jim Wesloski, Jr. from Great American Opportunity. This is a local, nationwide company which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest fundraiser company around. Jim spoke to the PTO about his 29 years experience and how his company has made 14 million in profits. Great American Opportunity is the largest gift company. They promise to eliminate the middle man and deliver all of their products in gift boxes - - not just white boxes. For easy distribution, all items are packed by child and also by classroom. Karen Hastings will speak with Jim in further detail about possible fundraising.

**Mrs. Thomas' Report**

- The Giving Garden – The donations have been great.
- Report Cards and Parent/Teacher Conferences – At the time of our meeting we were in the middle of report card distribution and Parent/Teacher Conferences. Mrs. Thomas expressed that several parents attended the conferences and also how this strong attendance added to the Book Fair Sales.
- MCAS Testing – The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are preparing heavily for the MCAS test with their students. Mrs. Thomas stressed how parents can help with the MCAS test by making sure their child has a good night sleep and a healthy breakfast in the morning. The MCAS schedule is as follows:
  - Grade 4 – Long Comp – March 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Grade 3 – Reading – April 1st, 2nd, 3rd
  - Grade 4 – Reading – April 6th,7th,8th
  - Grade 3 – Math – May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Grade 4 – Math – May 20<sup>th</sup> and May 21st
- School Council – Look in the Granger Gazette for the new Granger Mission Statement. The council is formulating new ideas for the 2010 school year. The council has also voted to oversee any money spent from the principal's account that exceeds \$100.00.
- Problem Resolution Guidelines for the Agawam Public Schools – Mrs. Thomas wants parents to be aware of the proper channels to follow with any concerns for their children.
  - Speak to the teacher (s) and/or related service provider. The teacher should reply within two school days.

- If your concern is not solved proceed to your child's IEP Contact Person/Education TEAM Facilitator. Response should be within three school days.
- Still unsatisfied proceed to the Director of Special Education. Response should be five school days.
- If problems are not resolved at this level, there are phone numbers and forms that you can obtain from anyone of these providers.
- Coffee with the principal – Will be held on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> and the topic will be the Wellness Policy in the Elementary Schools.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Book Fair** – As of 3/10/09 we have collected \$3,402.63. The Book Fair was doing very good and at next month's meeting we will be provided with the profits. We need to relook at the vouchers for next year. We will consider what other schools in the district do in this situation.
- **Family Picnic** – June 12<sup>th</sup> – Amy will start meetings in April to discuss the time, bathrooms, liability and more.
- **Dad's Supper** – Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Notices for raffle baskets went out 3/9/09. There will be a meeting on 3/24/09 at the Checca's house if anyone is interested in attending. The Dad's supper will have the AIC cheerleaders, face painting, raffle baskets, Chinese raffle, DJ, Rockcat mascot and of course the dad volunteer's.
- **Art Show** – Will be held on May 21st from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. The theme this year will be, "It's All About Me." Approved \$300.00 for startup money. Karen Hastings and Beth Davis will work with Jen Bonivita to organize the show. Volunteers will be needed on the day of the show.
- **Box Tops** – Approximately submitted \$200.00
- **Teacher Appreciation** – Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The Baking Committee will drop off things off on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning.
- **Moving Up** – Students and Teachers now have the T-shirts.
  - School Yearbook will just be 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Next year we will look into K – 4.
  - Gift from 4<sup>th</sup> graders – looking into a sign for above the large rock that is located in front of Granger.
  - Suggested popcorn and lemonade on Moving Up Day for refreshments.
  - Bob was going to speak with the gentleman in charge of the DVD for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders. He is going to charge us \$1200.00 for 48 DVD's. A \$300.00 deposit was due the next day.
- **Fundraising** – Butter Braids will be handed out 3/10/09. A profit of \$915.53 was made.

### Old Business.

- Mini Grants
  - Approved Jocelyn Maksymiw for \$94.04 for magnetic strips and dry erase markers.
  - Approved Cheryll O'Connor \$21.24 for books
- Audit has been completed by Eric Nyes. He is a family member of Gina Williams. He is a recent graduate of Accounting. The report will be available next month for review.
- Karen Hastings and Bob will talk about a vendor night for a possible fundraiser.
- Need to find fundraising for Enrichment and Teacher Mini Grant.
- Rockcats Night on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:35 pm.
- Spring Fundraiser clothing order – Due March 20<sup>th</sup>. Will also be at Dad's Supper. Hopefully orders will be in by April vacation. Will look at the blankets for Fall Fundraiser.

### New Business

- Kindergarten Screening will be on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be 45 children and the PTO approved \$75.00 to purchase cookies from the school and juice boxes from Costco. Mrs. Heaton has agreed to organize this.
- Scholarship Application from Granger for High School Students on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Three scholarships will be awarded for \$200.00 a piece.
- PTO Expo on April 1<sup>st</sup> in Marlborough from 9:00am – 3:00 pm. Trina Davis has volunteered to attend. The PTO has approved to pay her fee to attend.
- Nominations for PTO Board Positions. Wendy Rua has volunteered to set up according to the bylaws.
- Bylaws have been rewritten and can be approved at the next meeting.
- Would like to vote on changing the PTO meeting time to 6:00 pm or 6:30 pm.

### Dates for other PTO meetings

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm