

# Fishers Island School PTO

## Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2010

- Meeting called to order at 4:31 by Co-President, Carol Webster
- Present were:

Jamie Doucette	Gail Cypherd
Carol Webster	Carrie Sawyer
Sue Lusker	Tawnya Eastman
Ibby Sawyer	Mike George
Charlie Meyers	Margaret Thompson
Carol Giles	Linda Bean
- Present in New London were: *\*note\* Other members may have been present; however, due to an inability to see them via the computer screen and difficulties with sound, all of the names may not be recorded in this document.*

Anne Wilkinson	Gary Staples	Karen Ward
Carolyn Patierno	Rosella Berg	Lynn Rojewski
Matt Snyder	Ellen Scala	Mike Shine
Anne Cochran	Kate Stafford	
- Treasurer's Report was submitted by Jamie Doucette. After summer fundraising, the account total is \$4255.44
- New Business:
  - Charter and By-Laws ~ Charter and by-laws were read by Tawnya Eastman. No questions or concerns were raised. They will be posted on the website by Linda Bean.
  - Membership Dues ~ Carrie Sawyer made a motion to keep the dues at \$5. It was seconded by Gail Cypherd. The motion passed unanimously. Tawnya will create a form and Linda will create an option to enroll on the website.
  - Mini grants ~ a mini grant for a visit from Solomon Schechter Academy was presented by Tawnya Eastman on behalf of Dan Gillan. Charlie Meyers motioned to accept the grant and Sue Lusker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  - Board of Education ~ A discussion was led by Charlie Meyers to address the plausibility of having a magnet representative sit on the Board of Education. Karen Ward voiced a concern about the recent increase in tuition and the lack of warning the magnet families received. Mr. Meyers explained that the Board seats are not a matter for the PTO and are governed by the Town of Southold; however, anyone can attend the public meetings. If a parent is unable to attend, Mr. Meyers offered to submit their letters on their behalf. He encourages parents to make their needs known to the Board. The concern over a recent decision to raise tuition was also addressed by Mr. Meyers. He expressed that the raise is small and still leaves Fishers Island School far below the cost of attending other small private schools. He further added that the rise in tuition costs is nowhere near proportionate with the recent rises in the per pupil expenditures of our school. Gail Cypherd agreed to ask a Board of Education member to join the PTO and attend our meetings.

- Fundraising ~ Karen W. expressed concern with the amount of fundraisers, the availability for any group to participate in any event, the large amount of fundraisers going on at the same time, and the likelihood that a few students may be raising more funds than others. Mrs. Wilkinson suggested the funds be rationed on a percentage basis to encourage more participation. Mr. Meyers expects students to work as a team and encourage their classmates to give equal participation. Mrs. Eastman added that advisors make efforts to motivate for participation, and there has to be a lot of events because there are many groups trying to raise funds. Mrs. Giles added that teachers, as advisors, are required to direct only one fundraising event regardless of the amount of money raised.
- Elections ~ At the request of Anne W. Tawnya will locate the minutes from the April meeting and ask Linda B. to post them to verify that there was an election of officers.
- Family Directory ~ Anne W. requested again this year that we begin some sort of directory in an effort to better connect our families. For this year, she, Karen W. and Sue L. have agreed to be a committee who will gather the information. Next year, Mr. Meyers has given permission to add a box to the registration forms that grants permission for the committee to generate a list.
- Dock parents ~ Mr. Shine expressed concern about the responsibilities of dock parents when students are not remaining within the gated area. All agreed that waiting for parents at the train station is not safe, especially in this dark season. Mr. Meyers will address the issue with magnet families.
- Transportation ~ Lyn R. requested further information regarding alternate transportation options to and from the school. Although the availability of activities in CT is enticing, it was expressed by Mr. Meyers and agreed by all present that magnet families are invited to attend our school. At the time of admission, they are aware that the school operates within the confines of the ferry schedule. As is the purpose of the magnet program, this allows for social and athletic enrichment for our island students. If other transportation is used on a regular basis, this will ultimately hurt the relationship between the island and the magnet program. Mr. Meyers did agree that for the occasional event, doctor's appointment, or family activity, using one of the other charter is acceptable. Margaret T. asked whose responsibility it will be to transport the students to the other charters, and Mr. Meyers confirmed it is the sole responsibility each parent to provide the transportation.
- Recyclables ~ Sarah M. requested last year that the PTO consider helping the Waste Management Commission is reducing the amount of recyclable trash on Fishers. Tawnya E. suggested a box be kept at the transfer station to collect ink cartridges as this is something we currently do anyway. The discussion will be tabled until the next meeting to allow for more time.
- Questionnaire ~ Sarah M. requested the PTO consider developing a questionnaire for parents to think about what type of person they would want their son/daughter to date. Because there was not enough information on this, we will table the discussion and ask Sarah to join the next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm by Carol Webster, Co-President

**Respectfully submitted by,  
Tawnya Eastman, Secretary**