

FIRST PTG MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

Thoreau School Library

7:00-8:30pm

ATTENDEES: Karen Brown, Melanie Bettencourt, Jen Jiganti, Leanne Winkler, Meg Wright, Margery Condon, Sue Howard, Amanda Mahoney, Erin Duggan, Trish Siefer, Natalie Gekle, Jessica Arado, Pamela Hathaway, Karen Bates, Maria Scichilone, Joyce Carter, Anne Mullaney, Nancy Zuffante, Diane Randall, Lisa DeRosa, Liz Wei, Valerie Tratnyek, Margaret Cho, Carla Macy, Laurine Verrilli, Julie Rohwein, Chris Economos, Julia Sinclair, Nancy Schulman, Shelagh Moskow, Rebecca Tubbs, Catherine Bradshaw-Holden, Jen Johnson, Carol Whipper

INTRODUCTIONS- Karen Brown started with the introductions. Everyone went around the room introducing themselves.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT- Kelly Clough, Principal

Things going on at Thoreau school:

Problems with busing- Working on the problems. Will have things resolved by the 24th. They apologize and if you have a problem will return your calls within 24 hours. Additional funding approved for expanded bus routes.

School improvement plans- WEB 2 technology- collaboration of teachers with students. Looking at Response to Intervention models as well.

Development of common assessments- Staff is looking to develop common assessments for students to see what the assessments are telling them and to see how teachers can help students improve.

School leadership team- Going to be implemented by October. Student learning in the best ways possible. Striving for professional development.

Principal's personal report- Met one to one with staff members this summer. Take that information and compile it give to staff at later date. Great way to meet with people. Majority of meetings took place over summer- 30-40 minute meetings.

Survey on Principal's page created- Will be shared anonymously with PTG and larger Thoreau community. Get as much feedback as possible. Get honest feedback.

Principal presence- Trying to be present at buses, recess, lunch room. Implemented a buddy system for brand new kids- so kids feel safe and connected to someone.

Visiting classrooms-giving out birthday pencils (keep tradition going). Spends time in the classrooms each day.

Personal meetings- Has met with various parents and spoke over the phone with many.

Attending Administrative meetings- Once a month. Sue Howard is her 'lifeline' this year with technology.

MCAS results to be reviewed- Looking at results shortly. Look at areas where need to improve.

Trying to be available- Getting to know the kids. Enjoying being here at Thoreau.

Communication purposes- checks email early in day or late in day. If need to speak to principal because issue is urgent, call office- Donna or Maria.

Coming up- Back to School Night Sept 22, 2010. A part of it will be there for new parents where they can meet principal, social worker, psychologist, etc.

After School Physical Activity Program- Hope to start first week of October. For grades 2-5 kids Monday

to Thursday. Non competitive games. Way to exercise.

Very impressed with Thoreau Staff- Caring, committed. Parent community is supportive.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Treasurer, Leanne Winkler

Vote on 2010/2011 Budget

Thoreauly Green Programs has been added-asking for \$100 budget.

Promotional Items- Thoreau magnets.

There is an auction that is held every other year. The revenue generated is split over two years in the budget. We currently have the revenue for this year's auction budgeted at \$20k but that figure may be adjusted as we move forward with planning for the event.

Overall funding for PTG is \$80k.

Grounds for Learning- There is enough funding to reimburse for the GFL shed.

All in favor to pass the budget- The budget is passed.

HEALTHY FOODS/NUTRITION LIASON- Pamela Hathaway.

Changes in lunch menu. They are working toward healthy vegetarian options as well everyday.

Now named KIDS EAT SMART instead of Nutrition Coalition. It is a district wide program

Hilary Boynton and Pam have been working with Bonnie Hardy and superintendent.

Sustainable food systems- had a 'boot camp' with food staff.

Making things from scratch. Moving closer towards much more nutritious, homemade foods.

Everyday farm fresh fruits and vegetables, something from scratch everyday.

Preparing a 'School Lunch 101'- How accounts are handled, how decisions are made about lunch.

Working in classrooms across the district on food related topics- planting, harvests.

Prepared a healthy snack list. Has a copy to hand out. Hope this will be the list for parents to go by when sending

Feeding your Family Well- a cooking class about cooking healthy dinners at home. Monthly column in the Concord Journal.

Healthy Snack list will be communicated via the weekly Thoreau Announcements including recommendations for nut allergy classrooms.

Lunch accounts need to more efficient.

Looking for volunteers for certain tasks. Outreach programs as well.

Outreach to teachers- Hilary and Pamela arranged for healthy options to be included in the recent Welcome Back

Luncheon for teachers hosted by the PTG.

Kids Eat Smart will be sponsoring one of the monthly staff breakfasts.

CO-PRESIDENTS REPORT- Karen Brown & Melanie Bettencourt

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT –

Schedule: 7pm-730pm, K and 1st grade. 735pm-805pm, 4th and 5th. 810pm- 840PM, 2nd and 3rd.

Selling directories this evening.

A refreshment table will be set up outside library. Each member of board will contribute something.

MONTHLY STAFF BREAKFASTS-

Teachers are trying to be more green by bringing their own mugs instead of using disposable cups.

Each grade room representative is responsible for organizing a monthly breakfast for the staff.

Breakfasts are in the staff dining room. Friday of each month. A way of giving back to the staff.

Kids Eat Smart is hosting one.

PTG board will host one as well.

Great way for staff to come together. A great way for Thoreau parents to give back to the staff.

COMMUNICATIONS-

Grade room representatives reach out to room parents and teachers to let them know PTG here to assist. Representatives can be a point of contact for questions or concerns.

OTHER BUSINESS-

Joyce Carter, Language Arts Specialist and Nancy Schulman- call for Bookroom Volunteers.

A long closet filled with books. The books are organized by levels- A to Z. A is kindergarten. Z is beyond 5th.

Volunteers suggest that they reshelv the books for the teachers so they can recount, reorder, and make sure they get in the right place. Come in every week for an hour or two. Work in pairs.

Goal is to get an inventory of all of the books in the entire school. A group of books called 'Soar to Success' that need to be organized. Seems teachers are not using anymore.

Book room is a great place for teachers. Not entirely complete.

PAL(Parents at Lunch)- looking for volunteers this year. Email Jackie Meehan if you are interested.

Reminder on Book Fair- start collecting used books. Will need volunteers.

Wednesday, October 6th - PARENT MEET AND GREET at Walden Grill. Cash Bar and appetizers provided.

Children's Programming Committee- Anti bullying program will be held at school on Sept 22 at school. Parents are always welcome to come. Will be in the announcements.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:30PM. NEXT MEETING November 17th 9:30AM

This message was sent to the Thoreau mailing list.

REPLIES GO TO THE LIST ADMINISTRATOR, NOT THE MESSAGE AUTHOR!

For support contact thoreau-owner@lists.ptg-concord.org.

Thoreau School: <http://thoreau.colonial.net/>

Thoreau School PTG: <http://www.thoreauptg.org/>