

**Thoreau PTG General Meeting**  
**September 14, 2011 7pm**  
**Thoreau Library**

Attendees: Melanie Bettencourt, Shelagh Moskow, Mallory Price, Meg Wright, Diana Rigby, Kelly Clough, Brad Bennett, Karen Brown, Ellen McHale, Erin Duggan, Carla Macy, Jen Jiganti, Trish Siefer, Dorothy Bisbee, Karen Bates, Kristin Root, Kimber Lynn Drake, Elizabeth Hunter, Trish Siefer

**I. Welcome-** Melanie Bettencourt & Shelagh Moskow

**II. Principal Report-** Kelly Clough

- Great start to the new school year
- New way of doing Back to School Night starting with a big group in the cafeteria
- Setting up a new blog with Sue Howard
- Starting a school newspaper. Meeting with Nancy Dillon. Grades 3-5. Possibly a newscast at the recording studio. Kids will meet once a week
- Matching up school's common core standards vs MA standards
- Parking situation- appreciate everyone's support and assistance with the new changes all for safety reasons. Still organizing it. Have some scenarios have to address.
- Monthly coffees with parents alternate between mornings and evenings. May have designated grade level coffees.

**III. High School Update-** Diana Rigby, Superintendent

- High school is outdated, no room for special education rooms
- Trying to secure state funding for 12 years. Finally this year the state is willing to contribute \$28 million, state accepts the project. Total cost is \$92 million. Carlisle contributes \$16 million. Concord contributes \$47 million.
- 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be freshmen when school is rebuilt.
- We need the neighbors to vote. Town meeting November 7<sup>th</sup>, the vote is November 15<sup>th</sup>. Has to be at least 51% yes vote at town meeting.
- Same builder as Willard. 4 levels of school. Sustainable building structure.
- Biggest project in Concord and Carlisle communities.
- This is our window of opportunity because the state has given us this money.
- Forums to show people the condition of the school- First one is September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm and Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at High School.

- It means taxes are going up.

#### **IV. Election of 2011-2012 Treasurer**

- Mallory Price is the new Treasurer for the school year- unanimous decision

#### **V. Open Board Positions 2011-2012- Melanie & Shelagh**

- kindergarten representative
- Gift wrap coordinator
- Kindergarten registration
- Bus driver appreciation breakfast
- Cake Walk
- CCPI

#### **VI. Budget-Mallory Price**

- PTG roughly has \$73k of reserve to utilize.
- Importance of putting money back into the school.
- Children's Programming Committee-aim every year is arts enrichment- trying to skim out non quality and bring in the quality about \$19,500 in budget. Past years \$14k was in budget. Boston Ballet is coming this year. Thoreau has been on a waiting list for this. Opening person is David Zucker. Try to mix up cultural exposure- dance, art, music
- 5th grader has a proposal- show of high octane chamber music, a journey through the genres of music.
- Teachers' stipends checks- different amounts for classroom teachers versus art & physical education teachers etc. Would like all teachers to get same amount. Due to ethics law no longer can write the checks. Teachers will be reimbursed.
- School Budget is frozen through December. Most of it is due to the High school, enrollment, and special education services.
- Some field trips are being canceled. Two field trips per year- need to prioritize. Right now parents do not pay for field trips.
- Request for A School Principal Discretionary Funds Account- \$2k- approved unanimously

#### **VII. Field trips to Gaining Grounds-Brad Bennett**

- Much of the funding comes from the parents. Always been funded by the PTG
- Wonderful partnership. Kids have learned about organic farming.
- There is not a decision at this time to cancel the field trip- the funding is available.

#### **VIII. Before/After School Programs- Jen Jiganti**

- Fencing Program has a gap between dismissal and start of the program- need a parent volunteer
- Minimum enrollment for these programs is 4 children
- There is a maximum enrollment as well
- Cooking class is full at this time
- Any liability issue- instructors have own insurance, CORI clearances,
- Most of the instructors are teachers from CPS
- Scholarships- no one will be denied for inability to pay-contact Rachel Levesque
- Students from other CPS elementary schools may enroll

### **IX. Thoreau Announcements Subscription- Melanie**

- Please everyone get on the PTG website and subscribe
- If subscribed last year, are all set

### **X. Upcoming PTG and Thoreau Events**

#### **a. Book Fair**

- looking into changing the menu and making it healthier. Working with KES and Food Service Director, Alden Cadwell
- Raffle to donate to a charity
- Family night is Friday, October 14

#### **b. Back to School Night**

- Wednesday, September 21, 2011.
- Parents only
- Would like staff to wear some sort of identification to identify themselves

#### **c. School Pictures**

- Friday, 9/23
- Can order pictures online
- All set for volunteers

### **XI. District PTG Presidents Meeting**

#### **a. School lunch program**

- Short term goals- Cook 75% from scratch, have 6 days a month be vegetarian, reduce processed meat to 0%, increase local in season produce and meat by 50%

- Long term goals- cook 100% meals from scratch, purchase local milk and switch to milk machines, create long term purchasing contracts with local farmers (potatoes, zucchini, tomatoes)

Meeting adjourned. Next General meeting will be November 16.

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