

DARCEY PTA Meeting Minutes September 21, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by co-President, Zoe Dolan.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Darcey School Mission Statement was read.

Speaker: Barbara Stern, Darcey Principal

Mrs. Stern spoke briefly about the Book Fair going on this week and reminded everyone that this Thursday is Family Night at the Book Fair. She emphasized the importance of PTA in energizing the school and providing funding for programs outside of the school curriculum. She spoke of the Cheshire Performance Standards, explaining how each of the seven performance standards was applied at the kindergarten level. You can find the Cheshire Performance Standards on the Cheshire Public Schools website.

Presidents' Report

Shazia Chaudhry welcomed and thanked those in attendance for their support.
Zoe Dolan discussed the Parent Lending Library that is available to parents. It will be brought down to PTA Meetings for parents to sign out books. She informed everyone that future PTA meetings will typically be held in the gym, noting that tonight's meeting was held in the library as the Book Fair is set up in the gym.

Vice President's Report

Shazia Chaudhry indicated that this position has not yet been filled. She doesn't have the current membership total at this time, but will have that information available at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Anthony Damiani presented on the current budget. Shazia noted that the Beautification Chair has asked for an additional \$100 for Beautification that was not included in the current budget. There was a motion to amend the budget to allocate an additional \$100 for Beautification, the motion was seconded. There was a motion to approve the 2009-2010 Darcey PTA Budget with the amendment for the additional \$100 Beautification allocation, the motion was seconded. Anthony also presented the reimbursement form that must be used to submit expenses. Additional copies of the form may be picked up in the copy room. Upon suggestion, Anthony will also email the form as an attachment to all committee chairs. Lastly, he reported that he has an accounting form that he will be using for tracking all monies in/out.

Secretary's Report

Heather Prior reported on the Student Directory forms, reminding everyone that a student cannot be included in the directory unless a signed form has been submitted. A reminder to parents will go out in the next "Week Ahead."

Committee Reports

Ways and Means

It was reported that the Genevieve packets for the fall fundraiser have gone out. The deadline for students/parents to turn in orders is October 2. It was further reported that t-shirt and sweatshirt sales are ongoing and have been going well. A table was set up at the Cheshire Fall Festival this past weekend, and while no sales were made, many people stopped by with questions about Darcey PTA. Volunteers are needed for help with the spring fundraiser. Shazia noted that last year's spring fundraiser was Yankee Candle.

Beautification

Zoe reported on behalf of the Beautification chair that volunteers are needed. A sign-up sheet will go out in the next "Week Ahead."

Book Fair

Shazia reported on behalf of the co-chairs who were busy working the Book Fair, which began today and runs through the week. There were more than 30 volunteers signed-up to help out; however, volunteers are still needed for Family Night this Thursday. They also need baked goods for Family Night. Anyone who can help out is urged to contact Linda Lewis at dandlewis@att.net. It was also reported that this year each child will receive one free book valued at \$5 or less. The children may make their selections anytime during the Fair, except Family Night as it would be too chaotic. Any child, who is not able to select their free book during the Fair, will be given the opportunity to select a book next week. Everyone was encouraged to visit the fair and reminded to check out the teachers' wish lists.

Curriculum Enrichment

It was reported that the first enrichment program was last Thursday when Ann Shapiro, a singer/storyteller, visited Darcey. The next enrichment program is October 15, when Mother Goose will make her appearance at Darcey. The committee is also looking to schedule a Chinese dance troop from New York for a program to be held sometime in December.

Town wide PTA

It was reported that there is a fundraiser available through Stop-n-Shop whereby customers can choose a particular school to support and a percentage of their purchases will be donated to the school of their choice. The principal of each interested school must sign up for this program by October 2nd. Zoe added that she had received the email on this fundraiser and she was working on getting the paperwork completed for Mrs. Stern to sign. She added that further information on this program will be provided to parents.

It was further reported that the Cheshire Town wide PTA will sponsor a Board of Education Candidates forum on Tuesday, October 20th at 7:00 pm at Cheshire High School Commons. Any questions that you would like to ask the candidates may be submitted to Diana Mueller at diana.mueller@sbcglobal.net or Karlene Rearick at kmrearick@yahoo.com. Shazia emphasized the importance of gaining as much information as you can about each candidate for the Board of Education.

Phone Tree

No report.

T-shirts and Sweatshirts

Shazia reported that Julia Contardo has just recently volunteered to chair this committee and that t-shirts and sweatshirts that have been previously been ordered will be sent home soon.

Specials Volunteers

Zoe reported that parent volunteers are needed for art, music, library and gym specials. More information will be provided in the "Week Ahead."

Special Activities

It was reported that Pizza Night is scheduled for November 10th; more information to come.

Box Tops

It was reported that lots of box tops have already come in, totaling just over \$200. It was noted that box tops are collected all year, so keep them coming. If you can cut them out before submitting them, it would be appreciated.

New Business

Shazia reported that volunteers are needed, especially for specials and beatification.

Teacher Comments

Susan Landisio began by addressing a question regarding Halloween at Darcey, noting that children may wear costumes and there is usually a parade. More information on the subject will be sent home by the teachers. She went on to report that the school is abuzz with excitement and the children are busy from the moment they arrive until the moment they leave. She notes that the best time to ask your children about their day is during bath time or before bed, after they have had time to reflect on it.

Principal Comments

Mrs. Stern discussed classroom curriculum. The focus at this time is "All About Me." Each child has a turn to be Star of the Day; the children look forward to their turn to share with the class and it allows the children to learn about one another. Mrs. Stern further reported that the literacy coaches have already begun testing each child to determine where each child is at in their development.

Board of Education Report

Darcey BOE Representative was not present.

Leadership Council Update

Mrs. Stern explained what the leadership council is and does. The council, made up of select teachers, an instructional assistant, and 3 parents, will meet approximately 5 to 6 times during the year to work on various aspects of Darcey.

A motion was made and seconded; the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.