

Minutes for February 10, 2009 Parent Association Meeting Grade School Campus – Music Room 7-9 pm

Name Change! We have decided to change the name of the Parent Council to Parent Association. This change has been made to make the name sound more inclusive and welcoming. All school parents are members of the Parent Association.

Parent Association Board: We are still looking for & inviting parents to step forward as Secretary or Fundraiser for the Parent Association Board. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested, please let Cindy Scheyer or Neave Megenhardt know.

SWS Auction Follow-Up – Carolyn Cox

The financial results are not in yet for the auction. The feedback received indicated that everyone had a great time. There was a good chance for community socializing and it worked really well to have the auction a week before Valentine's Day. Thank you to all of the many volunteers who made this event happen.

Recommitment Days – Natalie Steiner

There will be Parent Association tables set up again this year. Natalie has been hard at work making display boards for each of the teams. She has started a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with shifts during the morning and afternoon and to bake treats. Jane Higgins created a tri-fold Parent Association brochure will be handed out during Recommitment Days. Each parent will receive a Skills Survey sheet to complete. If parents completed one last year, they will get a copy of their old one that can be updated. Sign-up parties from the Auction will be displayed at Recommitment Days to see if we can get them filled up.

TEAM REPORTS –

Farmer's Market Team – Team is finalizing any last-minute land-use issues before going ahead with filing for a business license and non-profit organization status. (Tim Love met with the Dept of Land Use and confirmed that we have the go-ahead. We are purchasing the necessary permits.) The market is scheduled to open on Sunday, May 17th 11am – 3pm and continue every Sunday through October 24th. School parents are welcome to volunteer their help with the market on Sundays. The market will be called the 'Meadowbrook Farmers' Market'.

New Parent Outreach/Buddy System – Nancy Mulcare and Cindy Scobee are planning an activity for buddy families to meet each other and provide feedback. With this being the pilot year for this program, they are well-organized to match up families in the spring for the next school year.

New Business

Nancy Mulcare: Community Resource Book - Nancy proposed creating a resource book where parents could be listed by their talents or businesses so they can be

utilized by other SWS families. It makes sense to support the talents and businesses of our own community. Nancy will put together a sign-up sheet for parents to fill out at Recommitment Days. This will be a 'living' 3-ring binder document that can be added to or updated as time goes by. It will be kept by the main office at the Grade School.

Nancy Mulcare: **School Banking Program** – Nancy learned about a banking program for children that WAMU/Chase and other area banks do for schools. She brought up the idea of doing something like this at our school to instill good saving and investment habits in our children. She will look into this further by talking with a few teachers and the administration to see if something like this is feasible and desirable. It would most likely be appropriate for 5th grade on up.

Cindy Scheyer: **End-of-year school picnic.** Last year we had our picnic at the Meridian Park/Good Shepherd Center in Wallingford. We agreed to apply for the same location this year. The picnic would be after school on the last day of school, Friday, June 12th.

Carolyn Cox: **Fundraising Ideas for Parent Association** – Carolyn learned that Jamba Juice does not have a scrip-type program, but that they will set up a booth at school events and give 25% of their profit to the school. Carolyn asked if she thought that might be something we'd like to do at May Faire or Winter Faire? The general response is that it would be too commercial for our school and seems more like advertising.

Communication with other parents: It was suggested that we have teams submit team reports in the All School News by sending an e-mail to Syma before Thursday of each week. Include the date and time of your team's next meeting so other parents can join the team if interested. Also submit information for the Update by the deadline.

School Kiosk/Bulletin Board: We discussed the need for a kiosk on the school grounds where teams can post meeting dates and volunteer needs and other vital information for parents. This could be a gathering place for parents to stand out of the rain. We envision a wooden kiosk similar to what you would find at a campground when you check in. We would like this to be funded by the Parent Association as a gift to the parents and the school.

Next Parent Association Meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2009 7pm in the Music Room, Grade School campus.