PTO Meeting Minutes: March 20, 2012

Present: Tracy Smith, Amy Fitzgerald, Laura Brainard, Kristine Robinson, Shawn Vale, Lisa reich, Nadine Burd, Melinda Corp, Kelly Berkihisr, Virginia Frase, Rebecca Bowlby, Mrs. McNicholas

**Principals Report:** There is talk of having a meet and greet next year prior to school starting so students and parents can come to the school to meet their teachers. The DARE graduation took place for the 5th graders. There will be a seat belt safety program for 3rd graders, and 5/9/12 is the Limo to Lunch for the magazine sales drive. There was also discussion of the 4th grade trip and how it has been verbalized by teachers that it has become a huge responsibility taking the children so far and there is talk as to whether the trip itself coincides with the state curriculum since there is no longer a 4th grade social studies component. They will continue to meet to discuss the future of the 4th grade trip to Columbus. However, if the trip to Columbus is canceled in the future it will be replaced by another field trip to a different destination for that grade.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Checking account- $10,332.96 and Savings- $6,183.35

Any receipts need to be turned in by 4/2/2012 so there are no outstanding receipts. There is a need for an accurate account balance prior to the ending of the school year.

There was an additional fuel surcharge for the 4th grade trip and additional students were able to go- therefore more money is needed but final amount has not been given.

**Market Day:** Profit for this month was $234.86

There was continued talk of the future of Market Day due to the consistent lack of volunteers. Thanks went out to Nadine Burd and Barret Robinson who helped out this month. A comment was raised that people did not know that Market Day was strictly for the 4th grade trip and questioned that. It was further explained that Market Day is **NOT** “earmarked” for the 4th grade trip. It just happens to be the PTO’s most profitable fundraiser and since it typically amounts to the same as the 4th grade trip a comparison was made at the last several meetings in regards to the need for volunteers to help with Market Day since it is where most of the PTO profits come from. It is not “put aside” strictly for the 4th grade trip and goes directly into checking and savings just like all of the other fundraisers. PTO has been having a problem with participation of parents and just thought that bringing up the idea of having 4th grade students and parents help out with Market Day since it is only once a month would be a good way to get them involved in an activity that helps fund their trip.

**Field Day:** Julie Call and Amy Lyons are the chairpersons for this event that is scheduled for 5/30/2012. There was talk of purchasing t-shirts again. 5th graders would need to be included this year in the total since t-shirts were not purchased for them last year due to them getting other class shirts. Since 5th graders will be included there was talk of not having Elementary put onto the shirt and rather just “Rittman Indians”. Amy Fitzgerald had the invoice from last year and agreed to call them again for a quote, there were also to other people that agreed to get quotes from local merchants. It was recommend that anyone wanting to submit a quote to do so by the next meeting or via the e-mail address at rittman\_pto@yahoo.com

**Upcoming events:** There was discussion about movie night. It was brought to the attention that there have been some negative comments regarding movie night and it was questioned whether this was something that needed to continue. It was discussed that in the past children did run around, but since it has been enforced that a parent stay with their child there has been fewer disruptions. Virginia Frase who chairs movie night shared that it is not very profitable, but feels the kids enjoy it and she commented that she enjoys organizing it. There was a comment made about whether PTO needs to look at what they do and maybe do fewer “more quality” things rather than just a lot of things and spreading ourselves thin.

There was talk of whether to have a spring carnival. No one volunteered for taking this project on and therefore it will be cancelled for this year. Due to that Movie Night may go on since there would be no other event prior to school ending. There will continue to be talk about that with the chairperson Virignia Frase.

Elections for officers are next month. If you want to be considered for an officer position please e-mail and drop off your name and position for consideration to the main office and it will get to the PTO mailbox.

It was brought up that some people feel alienated and left out of PTO events. It was reminded that there are ample opportunities to contact any PTO officer with questions, comments, or concerns including: e-mail, phone calls, letter sent with child to school, dropping off letter at school to the main office, or attending PTO meetings.

**PTO is always open to suggestions on how to better improve our organization- please feel free to contact any one of the officers at any time with any suggestions you may have to help improve the organization.**