

**PTO MEETING**  
**September 9, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Mary Beth Shea	Tracy Duprey
Jennifer Gallagher	Marianne Snow
Sue Freeman	Dyan Reinhold
Allison Martellini	Jen Marden
Tricia Lane	Sara O'Bara
Sue Poor	Sharon Bartholomew
Barbara Tudisco	Tina Journeay
Michele Wilson	Rob Harrison
Mary Ellen Ramsey	Diane Brindle
Karen Batchelder	Susan Karalias
Christine Joyce	

**Meeting started at 7:20pm**

1. **NEW/OLD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** The executive committee is the same as last year except Dyan Reinhold is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President. Welcome Dyan. Thank you to Heidi Voulgaris for all she did as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President.
2. **TREASURER'S REPORT/CULTURAL ARTS/APPROPRIATIONS:** We are just starting out with \$32,305.51. This is great due to this hard economic year. The next statement should be coming in 9/10. Expenses were for MGBTS and the bookstore. We sent 8 kids to summer camp this summer with the Jean Connor scholarship. We budget \$10,000 for cultural arts every year, \$5,000 per school.
3. **TEACHERS:** Mrs. Ramsey & Mrs. Joyce from the Sweetsir were present. Thank you ladies for coming.
4. **PRINCIPALS:** Rob: HRD is having a great start for the school year. MGBTS was a great success and was very well attended. Thank you to Susan Karalias & all her helpers for making it so successful. This is Sue's last year doing MGBTS. Thank you for all you have done. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders went on their first field trip today to the pond in town. Next week they will be going to the Town Forest & will also be going to the Parker River on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Someone from the Parker River will be coming to HRD on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Parent orientation is on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade is from 6:00-6:45 & the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade is from 7:00-7:45. You can renew your CORI during this as well. Individual pictures are on 9/11 with Hockmeyer Studios. Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> will be

our first early release. Also, there is an error in the calendar handbook. The Harvest Festival is on 10/23, not 10/30. At Sweetsir, first we want to welcome our new principal at FNS, Mary Beth Shea. She wants to thank everyone for such a great welcome, with the Popsicle reception for her before MGBTS. It was a great way for her to meet all the new people & their families. The beginning of the year went very smooth here as well. Parent night at FNS is Wednesday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. Also, if you are volunteering at the school, the sign in desk is now in the office instead of in the hallway as you walk in.

5. **BJ'S WHOLESALE/DANIELLE SALVETTI:** Danielle is our representative from BJ's. Our PTO got picked to be sponsored by BJ's to help us out for buying things for our events.
6. **WEBSITE CALENDAR:** Sue Freeman will be taking this over from Tracy. Our website is [www.merrimacpto.org](http://www.merrimacpto.org). Thank you Tracy for getting this going & thanks to Sue for keeping it going. Any updates & all the info you need will be on our website as well.
7. **MEMBERSHIP/2 HOUR PLEDGE:** The 2 Hour Pledge form will be going out in next Tuesday's Take Home folder. This was new last year & was very successful. We saw a lot of new faces & hope this will continue. Membership is \$5 & with the membership you get the school directory when it comes out.
8. **2 HOUR POWER:** Tracy needs help gathering the forms & money from both schools. If anyone is interested, please contact Tracy.
9. **PTO POST:** Our first post of the year just went out. This is also new from last year & people really like it. It posts all the events going on at both schools. Tracy does need some help proofreading & help getting this out. If you are interested, please contact Tracy.
10. **BUILDING REQUEST PROCEDURES:** We have a new Facilities Director, Greg Hayden. If you chair an event at the school, you need to go through him to get the OK.
11. **FOOD DISCLAIMER:** At any event with baked goods, there will be a food disclaimer protecting ourselves in case of any allergies.
12. **BOXTOPS/HEIDI:** Kids can send these in all year long. There are boxes at both schools that the kids can drop them off in. Each month a name gets pulled from each school. You can also sign up online, especially if you do a lot of online shopping. Certain stores will give the school a percentage of what you spend.
13. **MAGNETS:** Lisa Linnehan is getting the magnets again which have the district's calendar on them. They are great to have on your refrigerator. Thanks you doing this again Lisa.
14. **EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS:** We do many events during the year. We do a fall fundraiser, a harvest festival, MGBTS, Square 1 Art, Spring Auction, Vendor Night, Bingo Night, Merrimac T-Shirts, Spring Yard Sale and have a Yearbook you can buy near the end of the year to name some.
15. **MGBTS/SUSAN & SUE:** Thank you both for all your hard work. They were a huge success. This is Susan Karalias' last year for doing MGBTS.

Thank you so much. Sue Freeman is taking over MGBTS at HRD for Susan but we now need someone to take over at FNS for Sue. This is such a great event. If anyone is interested, please contact Sue or Tracy.

16. **FALL FUNDRAISER/INNISBROOK/JEN & SARA:** Info will be going out on 9/22. The schools get 50% of every order. You can do online ordering. Thanks ladies for running this again.
17. **HARVEST FESTIVAL/DYAN:** This will be on 10/23, not 10/30. We have a lot of volunteers but can always use more. If you are interested in helping, please contact Dyan. This will be Dyan's last year running this so if anyone wants to continue this & take it over please let her know. This is a great family event & the kids LOVE it.
18. **JOEL YENNIOR SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST:** Joel teaches band at HRD as well as at the other Pentucket elementary schools. He wants to start a scholarship for this since yearly lessons costs \$200 per child. This can add up, especially if you have more than 1 child. You would need to fill out an application & you would need to meet certain criteria. It would apply to 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The PTO motioned & approved to start this scholarship for \$1,000 in which Joel would be the one to decide who gets it & he will need to resubmit this yearly to us.
19. **NEW IDEAS:** Tracy wants to come up with something good to do in the wintertime, maybe something where the Dads can get more involved. One idea was a Family Reading Night & the other idea was a Family Game Night where families can try new games together & they would be available to purchase.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35PM**