

**PTO MEETING**  
**November 4, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Mary Beth Shea	Tracy Duprey
Jennifer Gallagher	Tracey McCarthy
Sue Freeman	Dyan Reinhold
Liz Wisniewski	Diane Brindle
Lynette Provencal	Sara O'Bara
Sue Poor	Sharon Bartholomew
Tina Journeay	Karen Batchelder

**Meeting started at 7:05pm**

1. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** We do not have this month's treasurer's report because the meeting is a week early.
2. **PRINCIPALS:** Rob is at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade environmental camp so he is not here. At FNS, everything is going well. Today, the first edition of the Sweetsir Scoop went home. It is a newsletter & will go out every few months. Mary Beth would love feedback on what people think of it. The Holiday Helper program at both schools will be starting soon. Judy Kroner is the contact person. More info will be going home on this. A flier was sent home today about the H1N1 vaccine. We don't know the dates yet, but the schools will be receiving some doses of the vaccine. You can sign your child up to have it done. Public health nurses will administer the shot and this is completely optional. Hopefully, it will become available in mid November. The Sweetsir website is up & running. It is off the Pentucket main website. FNS is the first of the schools to be done. HRD is working on theirs now. Check it out. Also, people can go on the Pentucket website & be put on the email lists for either the whole district, or a particular school. People should sign up for this if you haven't done so yet.
3. **TEACHERS:** Mrs. Wisniewski & Mrs. Provencal came from HRD & Mrs. McCarthy came from FNS. Thank you all for attending.
4. **SWEETSIR SCHOOL COUNCIL VOTES:** This year we had 2 people who ran for this. Votes were tallied and the winner is Sharon Bartholomew. Congratulations.
5. **MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP:** We had 11 families that applied. The PTO is offering a \$1,000 music scholarship that will go towards music lessons. The \$1,000 was divided among the 11 families.

6. **HARVEST FESTIVAL/DYAN:** The Harvest Festival was very well attended and we made around \$3650 after expenses. Dyan had 2 people shadowing her so they can take over next year. We want to thank Dyan for running this event for so long. Great job.
7. **FALL FUNDRAISER/JEN & SARA:** This didn't go as well this year. We made less money than last year. There were a lot of complaints about only offering online ordering and that many people had problems logging on to the website.
8. **SQUARE ONE ART/SUE:** All the orders are in. They should arrive mid/late November. We made the same or a little more than last year.
9. **DIRECTORY:** Jen Marden getting all the forms from both schools. Hopefully it will be ready prior to Thanksgiving.
10. **BOOKSTORE:** The bookstore is this Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at both schools. Lots of books are being bought at FNS but it is much slower at HRD.
11. **VENDOR/CRAFT NIGHT:** Things are still getting finalized for this. It is being held on
12. **SANTA BREAKFAST/BOOKFAIR:** This is being held on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 9-11:30. If you have any questions or would like to help, contact Tina Journey. It is a great event & the kids love it.
13. **ASE:** Lisa Linnehan is running this again. A reminder was sent out to the people that taught classes in prior years. If anyone has any new ideas for a class, contact Lisa.
14. **T-SHIRTS:** Sara O'Bara is doing this again. Next Tuesday, a flier will go out in the Take Home Tuesday. You can order Merrimac t-shirts or sweatshirts. It is a great way to show school spirit. Thanks Sara.
15. **APPROPRIATIONS:** Twice a year the PTO votes on teacher appropriations. It is \$10,000 for the year and we do it in the fall & the spring. These are the appropriations that were voted on and approved.

- "Mineral Madness" Science Discovery Program.....\$525.00  
This is for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, as an extension of their Rocks and Mineral Science Unit. Students will explore the world of rocks and minerals as "geologists", learning about rock density and how minerals are part of our everyday life (Mrs. Terceiro)

- "Green Machine" Science Discovery Program.....\$525.00  
Plants and plant development are part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade science curriculum. This presentation will let students explore a variety of specimens from microscopic algae to redwood trees. They will also learn how animals and people depend on plants for everyday survival. (Mrs. Terceiro)

- Shipping Items to the Troops in Iraq .....\$50  
approx. HRD students have been collecting various supplies for the troops overseas. This will pay for the shipping of the items. (Mrs. Treem)

- Trade Books for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Classrooms.....\$1,000.00  
This is to purchase a wide variety of trade books, for their classroom libraries, to be used in the Reader's Workshop format. (Mrs. Tarr)
- Area Rug.....\$260 est.  
The speech room at Sweetsir needs a new area rug to replace the old one. It had a really bad smell and needed to get thrown out. Looking to buy a 7' x 9' oval rug with alphabet on it. It will be used for sound absorption and "language" time. We will research websites to see if we can find it a little cheaper. (Mrs. Mitchell)
- Reading A-Z Membership..... \$909.35  
This is to renew last years subscription with fewer teachers. The teachers liked this. (Mrs. Kotowski)
- Printer ink cartridges.....\$75.98  
PTO purchased a printer with cartridges last year for the 1<sup>st</sup> grade team. This cartridge will yield 3 times as many printings. (Mrs. Byrne)
- Reading and Writing Center.....\$287.45  
Mrs. Byrne wants a combination stand/reading/storage/white board/flip chart center for her classroom. This would enhance her Reader's Workshop approach. (Mrs. Byrne)
- PTO Bookstore Gift Certificates.....\$45.00  
These will be used for students that win a variety of school wide contests. (Terceiro/Provencal)
- Chinese Red Flower Drum.....\$86.99  
This is to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade International Fair curriculum. It is \$33 for the drum and \$54 to ship. (Mrs. Ramsey)
- Balance Scales/Demonstration Materials – Chemistry.....\$350 +shipping  
The existing balance scales are in disrepair and have pieces missing. They want 3 for the class to ensure accurate measuring. The Demo kits are for chemistry to illustrate different properties. This was already approved last year but they didn't buy it in time.
- There are a few other appropriations but we will discuss them again at next month's meeting due to finding out more info on them

16. **OPEN DISCUSSION:** Mary Beth Shea wanted to look into doing a Readathon. She wanted to know when would be the best time to try to do one. Wintertime would be best because it is the slowest time of the year in terms of fundraisers etc.. We also are going to do another Jump A Thon again in February. Also, BJ's wants the schools to make a banner for their Haverhill store. They want a 4' x 8' banner. We will put the Merrimac PTO and both school names on it. We thought that this could be done at the Santa breakfast and kids from both schools could decorate it. Also, there was a discussion about maybe doing a book drive. One of the girl scout troops is doing one and if it is successful, maybe we should do one school wide. It is a great way of getting rid of old books.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm**

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