

Brewster Korn

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

November 11, 2009

Introductions – President – Debbie Sokol
Co-Vice President Brewster – Kristen Prout and Lisa Stopka
Co-Vice Presidents Korn – Lisa Onofrio and Tonya Little (absent)
Treasurer – Oanh Stephan
Secretary – Kim Salley

Minutes – Lisa Onofrio motioned to accept the minutes and Oanh Stephan seconded.

Principals' Report –

Brewster – Nancy reported now is assessment time in both schools. Kids are assessed one to one by the teacher for all the kids for progress report time. Progress reports will be sent home Mon Nov. 30th. Conferences are that same week at both schools. The book fair will also be going on that same week at both schools. The book fair money goes right to the libraries, which is great because this usually gets cut in the budget. The Kindergarten harvest celebration in Nov. 20th. Barbara Kiesel will be coming in to read to the kids. Picture retakes are Nov. 17th at Brewster. The child must bring their pictures back if they want their pictures retaken. The winter celebration is Dec. 17th with a snow date for the 22nd. The concerts are all during the day. Kindergarten and Pre School are in the morning so all Kindergarten students will come to school in the morning that day. The CDs will be recorded Nov. 23rd at Brewster and Nov 24th at Korn.

Korn – Laurie could not make the meeting tonight however Nancy was able to provide Laurie's updates. Most of the info above is the same at Korn (assessments, conferences and the book fair). Picture retakes were today at Korn. Folder day went great. There was a great turnout. The winter concert is Dec. 10th at the high school at 6:30. The snow date is the 15th.

Christmas/Holiday CD Update – To date we have 32 orders from Brewster and 34 from Korn. There will be another notice going out this week.

Family Portraits Update – We had 60 openings and had 30 families sign-up. We had some people inform us that some families did not get the notice about the family

portraits. The feedback that we got from the families was great. People thought this was a fantastic fundraiser. Kim Aparo, Karen Woodward and Janine Kozik were our 3 photographers who donated their time for this. We were at the community center to set up on Sat and then we were there from 8:30 – 6:30 on Sun. With only half the available slots filled, we made approx. \$2300. This could turn out to be a very profitable fundraiser in the future.

Treasurer's Report – Oanh Stephan reviewed the treasurer's report. The 1st page is what went in and what went out since the last treasurer's report. The money from the fall fundraiser is in however we haven't paid QSP yet, therefore that final number isn't accurate. Last years taxes are done and mailed in and last years records are completely finished. The insurance has been updated. We are just waiting for the certificate from the insurance company. The last page of the report is for the playground fund. There was not much movement there in last month. The balance is around \$41 K, and we are waiting on the stimulus money to add to this account.

Harlem Wizards Update – We come up with some new dates for them and we will finalize a date next week.

Spring Fundraiser – We are looking for new ideas. Oanh Stephan will look though the past few years' fundraisers to see what has made the most money. Debbie is thinking of sending out a survey out to the parents to see what they may be interested in seeing as a fundraiser. There was a recommendation for doing spring bulbs and another one for doing butter braids. Debbie Huscher was questioning whether our school has ever combined with local restaurants where they donate a percentage of their proceeds from one day to the school. Christie Fournier offered to look into this. There is also something called Script that organizes purchasing gift cards with a percentage going to the schools. Debbie Sokol will check into this. Debbie Huscher recommended doing a silent auction at the schools. **If anyone else has ideas please let us know!** We will relook at this in Jan.

RSD Budget presented by Tom Hennick – One of the things the board is trying to do is to try and reach out to the community and open up communication. They are looking to reach out to the parents of the district through the PTO's. Tom Hennick is Brewster/Korns's representative from the BOE. He explained that he wants people to reach out to him to ask questions and bring up any concerns at any time. No question is stupid and no issue is stupid, and even if he doesn't agree he will always listen. Tom offered his home # 349-0428 and his work # 860-566-5682. He explained that it is difficult to reach him through e-mail however you can e-mail Sue Viccaro and she will get the e-mail to him. Debbie Sokol informed Tom that Sally Clark has agreed to be our BKPTA liaison. Tom is available to relay info at the BOE meetings if Sally or anyone else cannot be present at the meetings. Tom also explained that the other reason he is here is to let us know this year will again be a very difficult budget season. Last season the BOE thought they had a very fair budget and it was voted down twice. Health insurance coverage is probably going to double this year, and this is money that we are locked into. Budget talks have already started but public participation will begin in Jan.

Jan and Feb are the big months to discuss the budget and then the budget is presented to the public in early March. The BOE is looking for public recommendations for the budget. Sue Viccaro was also in attendance and reported that she is always available if there are any questions or issues that people want to discuss.

Other –

Oanh Stephen reported that JLPA is willing to order the 4th grade dictionaries with us. They will be more expensive however they are much nicer dictionaries. We have the money in the budget to pay for them and it was agreed that we should go ahead with this. Janine Kozik is desperate for volunteers for the Go Far program at Brewster. The kids are really enjoying it. It runs Mon, Wed, and Fri from 12:15 – 1:15. If we don't get the volunteers we won't be able to have it run 3 days a week. Kristen Prout asked if the kids had access to a drink. Nancy reports that when the kids get back to their classrooms they do get a drink however the kids can not go in/out of the school during recess for safety reasons.

Parent's night out is Feb 6th at the Raccoon Club. Debbie is wondering if we think the turnout is going to be too big to use the Raccoon Club. Debbie is thinking about sending out a survey to see how many people would be interested in attending. The Raccoon Club holds 260 people. It was decided that the Raccoon would be big enough. A few people recommended having a silent auction during the parent's night out. Debbie Sokol made a motion to have a silent auction during parent's night out. Debbie Huscher seconded. The motion was accepted.

Oanh Stephen asked if we had a date for the cultural night. Debbie doesn't have a date yet. Korn is looking at Jan 14th for the Science Night therefore Oanh requested that it doesn't interfere with that.

Our newsletter does not have many submissions. It was asked that anyone who is running a committee or event please submit a short piece.

Lisa Onofrio motioned to adjourn the meeting and Debbie Sokol seconded.