

**Loudonville PTA  
General Membership Meeting  
March 31, 2010  
Minutes**

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

Ms. Sandy Oakley welcomed and thanked the 15 members present for attending (attendance increased to 18 during the meeting). The PTA meeting began at 6:33 pm.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Lines 13 and 14 of the January 19, 2010 minutes were corrected and should have read: Ms. Flynn is also the lead principal for the development of a new Social Studies curriculum using Rubicon Atlas. Minutes for the January 19, 2010 meeting were approved after corrections.

**III. Principal's Report**

Ms. Kerry Flynn reported that the all school concert involving our artist-in-residence, Brian Chevalier, was a great success. It was wonderful that so many parents were able to attend. Even those who were unable to attend will be able to hear the concert because each Loudonville family will be getting a copy of the students' performance on CD, courtesy of the PTA.

The Loudonville Newsletter for April went out. It is filled with lots of information. Parents are encouraged to read it for current information.

The Third Grade Parent Information Night explaining the district's instrumental music program is Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Parent Portal/Infinite Campus Portal is becoming available to the parents of elementary school students. Parents and guardians can sign up for access to the web based program that will provide them with access to their child's attendance, schedules, NYS assessments, grading information and immunizations. Loudonville parents can sign up on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Loudonville from 4pm – 7pm or on April 13<sup>th</sup> at Southgate from 4pm to 7pm. It shouldn't take more than 15 minutes to sign up. Photo ID will be required.

The State Government is going to hold back \$2.7 million of the monies budgeted for our district. North Colonie is looking to reduce the proposed budget by \$3.3 million. The District is proposing to reduce spending in areas such as maintenance, supplies, and staff. Most staff reductions would occur at Latham Ridge because enrollment has gone down considerably there over the last few years. A grade section will also be cut at Blue Creek Elementary School. If reductions pass, Loudonville would be impacted by a reduction in the number of days that a librarian is in the school. We would have a librarian 4 days a week instead of 5 days a week. Our supply budget would be reduced by \$7000. Field Trip money would be cut by about a half (fund raising would be needed for some field trips). In addition, the Board of Education is considering cutting Building Assistants from the elementary schools. This would impact coordination of testing, School Box participation, lunch and recess supervision, among other day to day operations. Another way the district is planning to cut costs is to increase the walk zones that surround the schools. There would also be shifts in staff. There are no proposed teacher cuts in our building, but because of shifting due to seniority, Ms. Yerdon would no longer be teaching at Loudonville. There is a budget meeting tonight, and all are encouraged to attend. Other meetings will occur on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Adoption of the budget is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>. Proposed cuts for this year are severe. They will be even worse over the next few years.

**IV. Budget**

Ms. Jill August (Ms. Susan Bucci was not present) went over the budget handout. Highlighted was the \$1100 made at the book fair.

## **V. Teachers' Updates**

Ms. Chittenden reported that the third grade students are very busy with a science unit on sound and preparing to study the phases of the Moon, the Solar System, and a unit on butterflies and moths. Third grade students are following the five strands of social studies (government, economics, history, culture, and geography) as they study Vietnam and Australia. Students are also reading about how people endure hardships while working on their language arts skills.

Ms. Jennifer Edmunds reported that the concert was a great experience for the children. She said that second grade students are studying the life cycle and will be observing the different stages of mealworms, which have arrived at school.

## **VI. Nominating Committee**

Ms. Caroline Ahl and Ms. Mary Fitzgibbon agreed to be Nominating Committee representatives.

## **VII. Committee Chair Sign-up**

A Committee Chair is needed for the Fundraising Committee.

## **VIII. Committee Updates**

PARP – Ms. Ahl reported that over 180 students participated in PARP. Prizes will be given out after the break. The class with the most participants will be given a box of educational games. The Kick-off was a great success. Carmine the Chef was one of the Guest Readers. Ms. Maura O'Brien and Ms. Jill Walters did a great job with the book fair.

Book Fair – Ms. Oakley reported that the book fair was a great success.

Foreign Language Program – Ms. Oakley reported that the Foreign Language program is going very well. Over sixty students are participating. High School students are assisting.

Banking – Ms. Oakley reported that Ms. Sue Hazelton will chair the banking committee again next year, but she could use some help.

Spring Soccer – Ms. Brenda Garretson reported that there are 137 participants (boys and girls from a mix of grade levels). She said that teams are being formed, shirts are being ordered, and the Girl Scouts are scheduled to sell drinks and snacks during the activities. Ms. Garretson is planning to include a statement about financial aide being available on next year's flyer.

Spring Fundraiser – Ms. Kim Inglee reported that the Spring Fundraiser will be the Outback Steakhouse Curbside Take-out Dining ticket sales. Flyers will go out after break. Adult meals will be \$15 and children's meals will be \$5. Tickets can be sold to anyone. Meals will be available between April 25<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bruce Anderson is the manager of the Outback Steakhouse located on Wolf Road and has been very accommodating.

Ecology – Ms. Garretson (reporting for Cathie Love) said that the ecology stations will be set up around the school. Teachers, students and parents will be able to visit the stations and access information online at a Wiki Space for Earth Day projects. Informational packets are being created.

## **IX. New Business**

Brian Chevalier – Ms. Oakley reported that a video of the concert was being made and would be shown on Budget Night. The DVD will also be available to borrow.

BASH – Ms. Oakley reported that ideas for next year's BASH are needed.

Cell Tower – Many voiced their opinions about the proposed cell tower near the school. Discussions continued after recording of the regular PTA Meeting minutes were ended.

## **X. Adjournment**

Adjournment was not recorded by Connie Green, who needed to leave at 8:00 pm. At 8:00 pm the discussion of the proposed Verizon Cell Tower was still underway.

The next PTA meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Green, Recording Secretary

April 18, 2010