

UNITY WEST PTO
Meeting Minutes for August 16, 2011
Respectfully submitted by: Cheryl Howell; Secretary

ATTENDANCE:

President – Mary Denney

President Elect – Jen Davidson

Treasurer – Angie Anderson

Secretary – Cheryl Howell

Principal – Janet Ellis-Nelson

Asst. Principal – Floyd Fisher

Attendees – Jessica Abrahamson, Jeanette Ping, Jenny Amias, Sarah Perry, Jill Raven, Tami Warfel, Erin Stratton, Sarah Moore, Derek Moore, Jennifer Price, Sharon Baxley, Christy Burgoni, Jamie Price, Diane Ducey Anderson, Chris Reifsteck, Tori Stierwalt, Emily Polonus

Meeting called to order at 6:34pm by President Mary Denney

Introductions were made by all present.

Secretary's Report – May 2011 minutes passed out. **Motion** to approve by Jenny Amias, 2nd Jennifer Price

Treasurer's Report – Angie Anderson reporting. Spent \$4,214 on apparel – deposit being made in the amount of \$2,027 for profits from registration on apparel. After months of problems, Clubs Choice is finally paid off. We are still trying to get \$1400 reimbursed from Clubs Choice for cost of inflatables not received. Will propose budget at next meeting.

Committees:

Open house – Mary Denney reporting.

Scheduled for Thursday, 9/1/11

5:30-6:30pm Gymnasium with information, apparel, dinner available.

6:30 classrooms will be open

Serving hot dogs, chips, cookies, water, and lemonade for set dollar amount. There will be numerous booths to represent community clubs located in the gym.

Need volunteers. Email will be posted to contact

Fundraising – Jen Davidson reporting. PTO is trying something new this year. Rocket Walk – (successful at other schools) collect donations, 100% of amount collected goes back to school.

The Rocket Walk idea will nicely tie in with Unity West current Health, Nutrition & Fitness program.

Starting date is 9/1/11. Final date for collecting money will be 9/16 to qualify for prizes.

Tiers: \$0-\$24/participation ribbon; \$25-\$49/ t-shirt designed by 4&5th grade; \$50-\$99 water bottle; \$100-\$149 sling back pack; \$150 and up choice of gift card to Sonic Drive Inn, Savoy 16 Movie Theatre or Wal-Mart; top boy/girl in whole school will each win iPod; Top selling rocket in each grade level receives \$25 gift card to location of choice.

There will be a 'cap' set for families with 2 or more children for donations collected.

Ideas for activities are being planned for the day of the walk. Possible obstacle course?

All donations can be a tax deduction.

Volunteers are needed

There will be a contest for designing the T-shirt. 4&5th graders can participate in drawing a design for the Rocket Walk. They will have until 9/9 to submit their entries. During week of 9/12-9/16 all students in all grades will 'vote' on the best design. The winning design will be the 'official' design for the 2011 Rocket Walk Fundraiser.

Diane Ducey Anderson submitted a fundraising idea (handed to her from Lori Berbaum), Lights for Learning. Selling new energy light bulbs. No further discussion.

Box Tops – Jennifer Price reporting.

Please submit box tops loose in baggies. Please do not staple, tape or glue to papers.

Jennifer welcomes contest suggestions to promote the collection of box tops & Campbell's soup labels.

Book Fair – Mary Denney reporting. Theme will be SPACE. Dates will be October 19-22nd

Playground - in the past this has fallen under the Asst. Principal duties. Janet Nelson brought up the idea of repainting the playground again. Diane Ducey to check on who has or where the 'stencil' is located.

Accelerated Reader/AR - Janet Nelson reported that the summer book club was the best ever. 117 K-5 participants as well as some Jr high students. 43-75 students plus parents attended each Monday. Announcement of successful points earned for a few students. Points will count towards student's points for 2011-2012 school year. Take note of the bulletin board in the west wing. Donations for prizes are needed, drop off to Rachel Wenzel.

PR - Diane Ducey Anderson reporting. Wants to remind everyone that Christine Walsh accepts any pictures of Unity events. Christine is the contact for our local community paper, "*The County Star*"
Bulletin board, located in the West Wing, has been updated with Rocket Walk information and other important dates coming up. Have any suggestions/ideas for the bulletin board, please contact dianceducey@yahoo.com

Family Fun Night /FFN - Jen Davidson reporting. February 17th is date set for Family Fun Night, a very fun night for the family. Raffle, games, music, food. Jen is looking for someone to co-chair.

Teacher Appreciation - Jill Raven reporting – w/Sarah Perry – needing an additional co-chair to help.
Duties: arrange and schedule dinner for teachers during p/t conferences in October/March in teacher's lounge. There is a budget for funds. 1st week of May is Teacher's Appreciate week. Mon-Fri something different is done each day along with gift bags for each teacher. This school year, we have 47 teachers (59 total staff).

Fun day - Angie Anderson reporting – w/Cheryl Howell , inflatables, game stations, cake walk, tug-o-war, watermelon, popcorn, music, ice cream truck, set schedules for each grade to shuffle through all the stations. The biggest UWE event that we need volunteers for. This is usually the last day of the school year!

Apparel - Mary Denney, Received \$2027 profit on apparel from registration. Other events where apparel is sold are: Open House, Family Fun Night and of course apparel will be on display in the office.

Talent show - shared organizing by Diane Ducey Anderson and Jenny Amias.
Scheduled for April 20th – Auditions are April 4th & 5th

Principals report - Janet Nelson reporting. Excited about new year starting. Happy with quality of new staff members, Amy Davenport new 3rd gr teacher, Amy Kennedy 4th gr, Sarah Perry certified occupational assistant, Kristy Cloud new aid. Welcome! And our new Asst. Principal, Floyd Fisher. Updating of website is one of the responsibilities that Mr. Fisher will be doing. If you have any updates or questions you can contact him, fisherf@unity.k12.il.us The computer lab, located in the Library was outfitted with 25 new computers. In the Library – for another 1-2 weeks books will not be able to be checked out, while inventory is being completed. AR quizzes can still be taken though.
Looking forward to a GREAT year!

Old News – Jen Davidson reporting. Parent reps are needed for K-5. An email will be sent out for volunteers to respond.

New Business – Diane Ducey Anderson asked if she can coordinate a clothes swap table at open house? No exchange of monies. Janet has 5 bags of lost 'n found items that could be put out. Do a trial table of gently used clothing. Location TBD during Open House.

Motion – to adjourn made by Diane Ducey Anderson, 2nd by Jenny Amias

ALL PTO meetings will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month!
Next up.....September 13th