

UNITY WEST PTO  
Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2012  
Respectfully submitted by: Cheryl Tonkinson; Secretary

**New PTO email: [westpto@unity.k12.il.us](mailto:westpto@unity.k12.il.us)**

**ATTENDANCE:**

President – Mary Denney

President Elect – Jen Davidson

Treasurer – Angie Anderson

Secretary – Cheryl Tonkinson

Principal – Janet Ellis-Nelson

Asst. Principal – Floyd Fisher

Attendees – all the above plus: Jami Warfel, Jenny Amias, Tori Stierwalt, Jodi Burwell, Amy Gaines, Vanessa Udry, Coartney Siuts, Carol Dixon-Hunt, Diane Ducey Anderson, Sharon Baxley

Meeting called to order at 6:33pm by President Mary Denney

**Introductions** were made by all present. It was wonderful to have so many in attendance, especially the teachers!

**Secretary's Report** – November 2011 minutes passed out. **Motion** to approve by Diane Ducey & Jenny Amias

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer's Report passed out. A few outstanding expenses were paid tonight. Deposits made were for box tops and apparel. An additional \$1000 check will be coming for box tops. Report reflects bank balance of \$22,165.26 **Motion** to approve by Jenny Amias & Diane Ducey

**Smart Board Presentation** – Vanessa Udry

All in attendance received a first-hand view of how the 'smart boards' are being used in the classrooms at Unity West. Thank you, Mrs. Udry for a great presentation! Unity West currently has 7 smart boards in the classrooms. There are currently two (2) in 1<sup>st</sup> grade / one (1) in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade / one (1) in 4<sup>th</sup> grade / two (2) in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. There is one coming soon to Kindergarten thanks to a donation! The cost to set up one smart board is approx. \$2400. The schools goal is to supply each classroom with a smart board!!! The technology is pretty amazing and the kids love it! There are also smart boards in the Library and Art room. Both Title 1 classes have one thanks to special grant money that they received. The next grade to receive one will be 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

**Internet Safety Presentation** – Deputy Kevin Franzen

Office Franzen is employed by Champaign County Sheriff's office and has been the Resource Officer at Unit 7 for past 7 years. He has recently made presentations to Unity West, Unity East & Unity Jr. High on Child Predators and bullying. Today's focus was titled: Net Cetera – Chatting with Kids About Being Online, booklet handed out. Helping Parents be aware of cyber bullying. If you are interested in a booklet, please contact the office.

**Committees:**

**Open house** – No report

**Fundraising** – No report

**Box Tops** – Mary Denney reporting. Check out the Unity West PTO Facebook page! There is information recently posted on the page announcing this month's Box Top collection. Collection for January ends on 1/27. One winner from each class grouping (K-2 and 3-5) who brings in the most Box Tops will win a subway gift card. Nothing to report for Campbell's soup labels.

**Book Fair** – Mary Denney reporting. Book Fair is scheduled for March 13, 14, 15 & 16. Luau Theme!!!

**Playground** - Floyd Fisher reporting - letters were received from students for playground suggestions. A couple suggestions that were mentioned; Bases for kickball / spray painting bases on blacktop. Tire swing - \$189 is current best price. **This topic has been tabled until Spring.**

**Accelerated Reader/AR** - Jenny Amias reporting. Because we have so many students breaking the 100-200 point range with AR points, Rachael is suggesting that we make a budget cut for the 2012-2013 school year. We currently have plaques hanging in the library that cost \$70/plaque and for each student who gets 100-200 points, a small plate with their name engraved goes on the plaque, which costs \$3/plate. Instead of continuing to purchase plaques, using the bulletin board will be an option. Keep on Readin'.....

**PR** - Diane Ducey, you're doing a great job keeping the bulletin board up-to-date with upcoming events. Check it out!!! Located in the West Wing.

**Family Fun Night /FFN** - Jen Davidson reporting. Mark your calendars for Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm!! Subway is again supplying the meal for our Family Fun Night. Meals package for \$5 includes a choice from 3 different kinds of sandwiches, add your own toppings, chips, cookie, water/lemonade. Admission fee is \$5/family. Raffle tickets are 6 for \$5. This year we are going to pre-sell meal tickets, admission fee and raffle tickets. Hoping this will help speed up the line at the entrance door. Jen has secured two (2) U of I groups who will be helping/volunteering. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jen @ new email posted. Be looking for a notice coming home with information about the pre-sell tickets!!!

**Teacher Appreciation** - no report

**Fun day** - Angie Anderson reporting – no date set. Waiting to see if we have any snow days before setting the date.

**Apparel** - Mary Denney reporting. All orders are caught up. Mary is working on new designs and ideas.

**Talent show** - Diane Ducey & Jenny Amias reporting. Auditions are set for Thurs, April 4<sup>th</sup> 3-6pm ~ Event is April 20th

**Principals report** - Janet Ellis-Nelson reporting. Things are going smoothly since we have come back from break. Teachers are doing a great job at keeping kids well behaved and keep instructions going. We have OUTSTANDING teachers. Our school wide PBIS strategy is proving to be very beneficial. We have 480+ students. 450 students have never been sent to the office, 20 have been sent only one time, 15 have been sent 2-5 times and only 1 has been sent to office 6+ times. Most of them are because of homework, not behavior problems! In the most recent Newsletter sent home it mentioned the CommUNITY program. During the month of December, all grade levels adopted a charity for the month. The donations received from our Unity West family were very generous! Thank you ☺.

**Old News** –

**New News** - Check out the website – <http://www.unitywestelementary.com/> - a new widget is posted for our AR program.. It shows a live calculation of the number of quizzes the students are taking during the day. There are also lots of awesome photos posted. Mrs. Nelson asked if money earned from Box Tops could be used for Smart Boards. She also wondered if Scholastic book monies earned could be used for Smart Boards, Mary Denney will check into it. The ultimate goal is to get a Smart Board in EVERY classroom. Do we want to ' earmark' all funds from box tops to go towards Smart Boards? **Motion** to approve – Jenny Amias and Diane Ducey

In addition to all monies earned from Box Tops to go towards purchasing Smart Boards, our Treasurer will keep a separate line item on the Treasurer's report showing all Box Tops activity and monies will be kept separate from PTO funds.

**Funds Requests**

- Marta Collins requesting for the enrichment class, 20 copies of Charlie & Chocolate Factory @ 6.99 + shipping = 152.38 Mary Denney checking to see if we can use Scholastic monies. Ms. Collins would like to have these by end of January. **Motion** to approve by Diane Ducey & Jenny Amias. If Scholastic monies don't come through, the funds will be taken out of the Teacher's Request fund.
- Carol Dixon-Hunt – requesting Meet Add; American Girl, 25 copies @ \$6.95ea = \$173.75 She would like to have these for next school year 2012-2013. **Tabled for next meeting.**
- Terry Brodsky – requesting \$150 to help stock the store for PBIS rewards. **Motion** by Diane Ducey & Jenny Amias

**Motion** – to adjourn meeting @ 8:24pm by Jenny Amias & Diane Ducey