

UNITY WEST PTO  
Meeting Minutes for September 13, 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 – Jennifer Price, Jenny Amias, Jamie Price, Sarah Perry, Chris Reifsteck, Beverly Noerenberg, Coartney Siuts, Tori Stierwalt, Jami Warfel

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by President Mary Denney

**Introductions** were made by all present.

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

**Treasurer's Report** – Angie Anderson reporting. No written report. Balance as of today, \$11,200. Deposit made in the amount of \$4,138 for profits made at registration and open house. \$303 was spent on food for the open house, we made \$650. Very little food leftover. Chips/lemonade we will be donating to Jennifer for box top classroom prize. Apparel made \$1,226 just at the open house. Just a couple outstanding bills yet to be paid. We will start posting treasurers report on the website soon.

**Committees:**

**Open house** – Angie Anderson reporting. Good profit / great turn out /

For next year 2012 we are open to new suggestions for food ideas to serve. Suggestion was made to have the condiments on the tables instead of at the serving line to help the line go faster.

Jenny Amias has accepted to be the contact for next year to chair the Open House. Thanks Jenny!

**Fundraising** – Jen Davidson reporting. Kicked off Rocket Walk. t-shirt designs are posted in library for voting.

Talk of extending fundraiser for another week to 9/23 Newsletter will be created and sent out again to students.

Mr. Fisher will update website reflecting new date. We are asking teachers to put in their weekly newsletter as well.

So far only \$500 has come in and we need way more than that if we are going to be able to fund the class field trips.

**Box Tops** – Jennifer Price reporting. Top class that collects the most box tops in K-2 and 3-5 will get snack & drink on Field Day. So far Mrs. Dancer's class is in the lead for K-2 and Ms. Robbins class is in the lead for 3-5.

Remember to put your child's name on the box tops so the class will get credit and look for the expiration dates. This month's collecting contest ends September 28<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer emailed each teacher asking for their opinion on ideas for prizes or contests and hasn't heard anything. Anyone is welcome to make suggestions on ideas for box tops prizes.

Classroom parties is popular, how about extra 15min recess? Kids love more recess time. Oct 30<sup>th</sup> is 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for submitting box tops to General Mills. They only send out 2 checks per year. The 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline during the school year is March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Nothing to report for Campbell's soup labels except we are still collecting. Please send in an envelope or baggie.

**Playground** - Floyd Fisher reporting. Assessing the needs will come back at a later date.

**Book Fair** – Mary Denney reporting. Space theme...Book Fair & Beyond. Scheduled for October 19/20 and 22. Set up will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> after school, kids will preview on the 18<sup>th</sup>, teacher preview after school on the 18<sup>th</sup> from 3-5. We are looking for **VOLUNTEERS** to help open cases, organize books, cashiering, roam room, keep things in order. Our busiest times are during p/t conferences. We are only asking for you to take a shift for an hour or 2.

**Accelerated Reader/AR** - Jenny Amias reporting. Lots of prizes are being earned, kids are enthusiastic. Several are past 100 point mark. Keep up the good reading kids!

**PR** - Diane Ducey has been updating the bulletin board routinely with up and coming news! Angie Anderson is working on PTO newsletter. Christine Walsh has been good about putting pics in the County Star for Unity West!

**Family Fun Night /FFN** -Jen Davidson reporting. Jami Warfel has accepted the duties as co-chair and Diane Ducey will be helping. We haven't started planning this yet. Scheduled for February 2012 and we will be looking for **volunteers** to help by getting raffle donations, prizes for all the games, food, set up/clean up.

**Teacher Appreciation** - Sarah Perry reporting. There will be 2 dinners being planned during p/t conferences one in October and the other March. A theme will be chosen and anyone willing to help set up or make donations are welcome. In May, we celebrate Teacher's Appreciation Week. In the past we have had things like: Coffee bar, build your own trail mix, Friday is usually grab bag day for teachers. Open for new suggestions.

**Fun day** -Angie Anderson reporting – no plans have started as of now. Angie is still working on getting a refund from Club's Choice as they were to pay for the inflatables we had for our May 2010 Fun day. She is still not getting any response from Club's Choice corporate. When we start to plan for Fun Day the following will be asked for **volunteers**: Help set up, making popcorn, watch/monitor game stations, face painting, clean up, etc. Any help is appreciated.

**Apparel** - Mary Denney reporting. All product is stored in Unity West office. Product is usually set out for sale during open house, Family Fun Night, Book-Fair..... Mary is looking to turn the apparel over to someone else – anyone interested, please contact her.

**Talent show** - Jenny Amias reporting. Currently scheduled for April 20th. No plans have been started yet. Auditions could possibly be over 1-2 days and that is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Principals report** - Janet Ellis-Nelson reporting. \* Biggest news....email was down for a while, the server in district crashed. New one has been bought and being rebuilt. \* There are new lights in gym, makes it much brighter. They are motion activated so if no one is in gym for a while, they turn off. \* The computer lab was upgraded and looks and works great. We are able to get 25 students in the lab at one time now! \* Apparel sales are up with homecoming week! There will be an all school picture scheduled Friday 9/23. \* Due to Unity West's emphasis on wellness our 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been invited to Health Jam sponsored by Champaign County 4H. There is a 2 day field trip starting with visit to ARC (Activities and Recreation Center) on 9/27 and @ Carle on 9/28. 4H got the grant from Wal\*Mart to promote this wellness. \* West Wood Planting Day is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, with rain date of October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Old News** - Jen Davidson reporting. The Classroom reps have been assigned:  
K Tori Stierwalt / 1 Sarah Perry / 2 Jen Price / 3 Jamie Warfel / 4 Diane Ducey / 5 Cheryl Howell

**New** – Bev Noerenberg request. The landscape school budget has been cut to \$500. She has purchased 5 regular trees and 5 spruce for new students totaling \$385. She was able to secure a donation of 15cu yards of mulch and it will be picked up and delivered by Tolono Township as a donation too, (thank you Russ Curry). She is needing an additional 9cu yards @ \$20/ to complete the mulch project. She is asking PTO to donate. Request was tabled for discussion. Ms Noerenberg also mentioned that she would like help in Spring 2012 working on flower beds. \*\*Every fall West Woods has a scheduled planting day. Each new Kindergarten class and any new student who joins UWE gets a tree planted. Weeding, mulching, watering is done by all other students during this West Woods event. This is currently scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion** to adjourn – Jennifer Price made motion to adjourn @ 7:18pm/ Sarah Perry 2<sup>nd</sup>