

# SOMS PTA MINUTES

February 9, 2010

Meeting came to order at 7:35pm.

Minutes of Meeting on January 12, 2010 were accepted with two edits.

## **President's Report – Evan Karzhevsky**

- One member of SOMS PTA will attend the Central Hudson Region PTA Legislation/Education Breakfast on March 6<sup>th</sup>. If anyone else is interested they should contact Evan Karzhevsky by 02/25/2010.
- Rosemary Pitruzzella will represent SOMS PPTA at the Legislation/Education Conference on 02/27/2010 and 02/28/2010 in Albany.
- Board of Ed has requested that the PTA's present a Unit Report at Board of Ed meetings at least quarterly. Ron Shapiro is our representative at the meetings so he will be asked to do this for SOMS PTA>
- On March 10<sup>th</sup> Rachel Simmons, best-selling author (Odd Girl Out; Curse of the Good Girl) and authority on issues related to self esteem and girl on girl bullying in the middle school years, will be at SOMS for the full day. Preliminary plan is for day to include:
  - Assembly for girls only
  - Smaller group meetings with girls
  - Evening event for parents.Boys will have a normal schedule that day, but a similar day focusing on the boys is being considered.

## **Principal's Report – Karen Tesik**

- Modified Sports – in response to request at last month's meeting, Mrs. Tesik is working with the Athletic Department to have more detailed information, frequency and time of practices and games, etc., posted about each sport before the season starts so parents and students can make informed decisions about the sports they are interested in.
- Reported on impact to dismissal of police action in Sparkill and train derailment in Blauvelt. While there were bus delays and some students who came back to schools because of road closures, by the end of the day all students had arrived home safely.
- Update on student report of "ghosting" on school computer. IT checked computer and determined that there was a virus, but no "ghosting".
- SOCASA fun night was a success with over 300 students in attendance.
- Mid-terms process went smoothly. Scheduling seemed to work better than last year to limit schedule disruption.
- Security
  - All doors will be locked by 8am.
  - Guard will buzz visitors in. Must have photo ID.

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- After 4PM there will be no access to the building except for those participating in after school activities. No one will be allowed to go to their lockers.
- Morning drop off
  - too many kids arriving late, many repeat offenders. New rule, for every minute of unexcused lateness student will lose 1 minute of lunch time.
  - Parents, please be cautious when pulling in and leaving drop off area. Wait in line. Pull up as far as you can to drop off.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip will cost \$195
- Thank you for Wolf Conservation Assembly for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade which was chosen to connect with their reading of “The Call of the Wild”.
- Mrs. Tesik was asked to look into developing events aimed at easing the transition into High School for both the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents. A few ideas were proposed:
  - Invite TZHS parents to an evening where they could give the parents of the incoming students the “inside scoop” on how the high school works and what they’ve learned that they wish someone had told them ahead of time.
  - Have a day when 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents are invited to visit the high school and “watch what happens”.

## **Committees**

### **Special Events – Joy Ruggiero**

- Last party made \$1300, approximately 180 kids attended. Low turnout may have been due to SOCASA event the following week. Will schedule these events farther apart next year.
- Please contact Joy Ruggiero if you’d like to be on the committee for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance. 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents needed to decorate, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents needed to volunteer the night of the dance. Tickets will be \$20 which will include food and drink.
- Slam Dunk event will be cancelled due to limited attendance/participation last year.

### **Clothing Sales**

- Spring sale will start March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Anne Swann if you’d like to volunteer.

### **School Store**

- Trish McGee has agreed to be a co-manager. Please contact Evan Karzhevsky or Trish if you would like to partner with her.

### **Assemblies**

- It was suggested that PTA create a calendar of the assemblies we underwrite and post it on the PTA section of the school website so parents can see one of the main

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benefits of an active PTA and the impact of the membership fee and fundraising efforts.

Next meeting will be held at 7:30, March 16th in the SOMS Library.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.