

## **APT Meeting Minutes for September 16, 2008 (Pending Approval)**

Jennifer Gatz – President - called the meeting to order at 9:00am. There were 23 people present. Introductions were conducted.

- Beginning this year, the agenda will include time allocations. This is an attempt to keep the meeting running smoothly and on time. These times are guidelines only.
- APT Meeting Guidelines were also reviewed. These will be followed at each meeting and will be included on the written agenda. These guidelines include: start and end on time, provide agenda, maintain sense of humor, agree to disagree, be honest and work to closure, stay focused yet flexible, be active listeners, be open-minded, be creative thinkers, question to clarity, equal air time.
- Minutes from April and May 2008 were distributed and approved.

### **Treasurer's Report: Linda Lee**

The following Budget Reports were handed out: APT Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual August 2007-July 2008, APT Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual August 31, 2008, APT Balance Sheet Standard as of July 31, 2008 and August 31, 2008. Copies of these budget reports are available for review upon request.

### **President's Report: Jennifer Gatz**

- APT minutes will be posted online this year about one week after the meeting. They will not include financial details. They will be titled "Pending Approval" since they have not yet been approved.
- If you present a report at the APT meeting, please have a written copy of the material available for the APT secretary.
- Volunteer Screening Forms were handed out. These must be completed each year for all Amberly volunteers. These are to be turned in to the office upon completion.
- Thank yous to: Lara Hobson and the BBQ Committee, Hospitality co-chairs Julia Ridenour and Denise Mitchell, and Fundraising Chair Miranda Garside and Assistant Nancy Lyke.
- APT will conduct a parent survey later this fall covering topics such as preference for meeting times and interest in informational speakers. If you have a question that should be included on the survey, please contact Jennifer Gatz. Please fill out this survey so your opinions can be heard.

### **Past President: Emmy Brown**

- Thank yous to Jennifer Gatz and Executive staff for their hard work over the summer. Thank you to everyone for coming to the meeting and supporting APT.

### **Fundraising Chair: Miranda Garside**

- The fundraiser has been initiated at Amberly. The fall fundraiser is the main fundraising event for the APT budget. The majority of the funds raised go toward funding the fifth grade camp.
- This year prizes will be available for the top 5 sellers. This differs from the previous year when the top 15 sellers received a prize. Instead of prizes for the top 6-15 places, the points from the fundraiser will be used to purchase DVD players for the classrooms.
- There was a lot of discussion over having student prizes for this fundraiser and if the prize winners would be posted. There are many differing viewpoints on the effectiveness of prizes and the type of atmosphere that is created when individual prizes are used as incentives. This will be looked at more closely this year by APT.

### **Principal's Report: Mary Daoust**

- An article in the recent Newsletter discussed severe food allergies in several Amberly students. Some students have food allergies to tree nuts/peanuts, peanut butter. Amberly has taken steps to help reduce allergy risks. Mrs. Daoust is requesting that parents make every effort to not send nuts, peanuts, or peanut butter products to Amberly. This request is not unique to Amberly; it is becoming a nation wide effort in the school system. The new food service provider (Chartwell) has made significant efforts to remove these products from the lunch menus. Ellen Robare noted that a news article with ideas on cost effective alternatives for peanut-free snacks and lunches would be helpful. This will be pursued.
- Mrs. Daoust introduced Mimi Otto and the Safe Kids Coalition. On October 7 and 8, 2008 Amberly will be part of the Safe Walk to School Day. On October 7, an assembly will focus on Walk Safety and Stranger Danger. On October 8, all students

and their parents are encouraged to walk to school. There will be many events at school including a Safe Walking Simulator sponsored by FedEx. The Portage Police Department along with Bronson, will hand out free, fitted helmets to students riding their bikes to school without a helmet. Volunteers will be staffed along the walking routes to insure students get to school safely. Proposed volunteer positions are marked on a map. This map is available for review. Please review the map to insure your child can get to school safely. Also, contact the office if you are interested in volunteering for this event.

### **Committee Reports**

BBQ: Laura Hibson: The 2008 BBQ Kickoff was a success despite the rain. They sold out of food. Since it was held inside, despite the rain, a rain date for next year will not be needed. Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors.

Mother-Son Event: Michelle McManus: Registration information for this event at Formula K in Mattawan (October 7, 2008, 6:00-8:30pm) has been sent home. No additional volunteers are needed to staff this event.

Beautification: Patty Schuring: The beautification committee will be focusing on the court yards this year. Teacher and classroom involvement will be encouraged for interested teachers.

Spirit Wear: Sherri Wagner: So far this year, Spirit Wear has been sold at the Kickoff BBQ and the Open House. Sales have been very good. It was recommended that Spirit Wear also be sold during Parent/Teacher conferences, and during Movie Night.

### **Old Business**

None to report.

### **New Business**

Pop Can Collection: The Ruterbusch family has volunteered to set up a pop can collection at Amberly. Proceeds from the pop can returns will be used for playground improvements and items for indoor recess.

Gym Amplification System: APT now has sufficient resources to fund the portable gym amplification system. With the exception of the Music and Art Rooms, all other teacher rooms have an amplification system. The portable gym amplification will be used for gym class, movie night, assemblies, and it will tie in with the current gym amplification system to allow for use during school programs and concerts. A motion was made and approved to purchase the portable gym amplification system.

Funding for the Fifth Grade Guitar Program: Beginning this year, Amberly and Woodland Elementary Schools will implement a Guitar curriculum as part of their music program. All students in fifth grade will be taught how to play the guitar. To date, Woodland PTO has funded the purchase of 15 guitars. Amberly APT has been asked to provide additional funding to support this program. In addition, funding may be available through a Target Grant. APT is interested in supporting this program. A decision on funding will be postponed until the next APT meeting. At that time, music teachers Tressa Clemens and Michele Helner, will be asked to present this request and answer any questions. Also, by the next meeting, the funds raised by the fall fundraiser will be known.

Recycling of Capri Sun Pouches: The possibility of recycling juice pouches was discussed. Terra Cycle is a company that will recycle Capri Sun pouches (and many other items) and donate 2 cents per item. It was recommended that this project be headed up by the Amberly Student Council.

### **Announcements**

- Fundraiser orders are due September 26
- Mother-Son Event October 7, 6:00-8:30pm, Formula K, Mattawan
- Notes & News Deadline is October 10, contact Ellen Robare ([erobare@sbcglobal.net](mailto:erobare@sbcglobal.net))
- Directory order forms will be coming home soon

### **Next Meeting**

The next APT meeting will be Tuesday October 21, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Media Center

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diane Hamlin, Secretary