

APT Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2008 (Pending Approval)

Jennifer Gatz – President - called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m. There were 15 people present. The October minutes were distributed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Lee

The following Budget Reports were handed out: APT Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual August through October 2008, APT Balance Sheet Standard as of October 31, 2008, Amberly APT Treasurer's Report. Copies of these budget reports are available for review upon request.

President's Report: Jennifer Gatz

- Mileage Club: volunteers are still needed for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade recess. Please contact Marcia Elliott (guidance counselor) if you can help out.
- We welcome LynnAnn Birkmeier as co-chair for the Staff Luncheon committee. She joins Julie Lawford in planning this January event.
- Thank you go out to Rudy and Jill Ruterbusch for coordinating our Fifth Grade Clean Up this year, Tricia Lutz and Gretchen Kauth for coordinating our Holiday Sharing, and Sarah Beuker for organizing Holiday Art.
- Fundraising Notes: Because of the declining success and low interest in catalog sale fundraising, the Executive Board has discussed other fundraising options. A decision has been made to shift our focus from catalog sales to a fitness walk, which is something that other area elementary schools have tried. All Amberly students can participate in the fitness walk which will be called Tiger Trek. Nearly all monies from this event will go directly to APT. A benefit of holding a major fundraiser in the spring is that the budget for the following school year can be set based upon funds available. Our first Tiger Trek fundraiser will take place in the spring of 2009.

Fundraising Chair: Miranda Garside

- The fund raising profit for the Sally Foster Fundraiser fell a bit short of the goal, but overall it is considered a success considering the difficult economic times.
- Less than 60% of students participated in the fundraiser this year. This is believed to be lower than in previous years, but there is no data available for comparison.
- A committee is now forming for the spring fundraiser – Tiger Trek. The first meeting will be January 13, 2009 at 9:00am in the Conference Room. If you are interested in working on this committee, please contact Miranda Garside at mirandagarside@charter.net.
- Budget Shortfall for 2008/2009 – because the Sally Foster Fundraiser brought in less money than anticipated, there is presently a shortfall for the 2008/2009 budget. Linda Lee, Treasurer, explained that despite the shortfall, there are additional money making events that should help decrease this shortfall. Among these events are the Daddy Daughter Dance and the Movie Night. Additional funds can be brought in by selling off the present inventory in the Scrip Gift Card program. It is felt that if the Scrip inventory can be sold over the holidays, APT should be able to cover all budgeted items. A push will be made to sell Scrip Gift Cards over the next month to two months. The budget will be reevaluated in January 2009 to determine if any adjustments are needed. At this time, no major adjustments are expected.

Principal's Report: Mary Daoust

- A Curriculum Coffee is being held on December 3, 2008. This will cover curriculum and Amberly progress and Improvements. If you would like to attend, please RSVP on the slip that came home in the Friday Folders.
- As winter weather approaches, please remember to drive slowly and safely. School Closings will be posted on local TV and Radio Stations. In addition, you may sign up to receive e-mail notification from the District e-mail system.
- Warm Kids Project provides new Hats, coats, boots, and gloves to children in need in Kalamazoo County. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to: Warm Kids Project, P.O. Box 44, Kalamazoo, MI 49004 (www.warmkids.org). \$45 will provide a new hat, coat, boots, and gloves for one child. In addition, please contact Mrs. Daoust if you have gently used items – especially snow pants.
- Conferences will be held the last week of November. During conferences, there will be a Girl Scout Troop Bake Sale, Amberly fleece Headbands and adult fitted T-shirts will be for sale. Scrip Gift Cards will also be available for purchase.
- December 5, 2008 – Favorite Book Day sponsored by the Student Council – Quiet time will be allocated to let students read their favorite book. Students are asked to donate \$1.00 to support the new library at PCOC.
- PCOC – is in need of new or gently used library books for their new library. These books should be age appropriate for approximately 11-15 year olds. PCOC is also taking donations for children's items such as gently used toys, cars seats, etc.

- On December 10, the first and fifth grades at Amberly will have the opportunity to attend a performance of the Ko-Thi Dance Company at Chenery Auditorium. Education for the Arts has provided these tickets free of charge.

Committee Reports

Newsletter: Ellen Robare: \$10 ad revenue was generated for the November issue. The January deadline is January 9, 2009. If you have an event before that date, please send in the committee member names so a thank you can be published.

Curriculum: Debbie Rude and Rita McKenzie: Commitments are needed for the Curriculum Coffee. If you plan to attend, please RSVP on the slip sent home from school. A new math curriculum is currently being piloted in the 5th grade. It is hoped that new books will be purchased within the year. No real updates are currently planned for Language Arts.

After School Enrichment: Lara Hobson: After School Enrichment will run for six weeks January 12 – February 20. Classes will meet right after school until 4:45pm. Some classes will run the full six weeks while others will only be held for three weeks. This is not an APT fundraiser; charges for classes are based upon instructor expenses. Instructors will be paid in Scrip Gift Cards. Signups will go out the first week of December in the Friday folders. Currently there are 15 classes to choose from. Contact Lara Hobson (329-4078) if you are interested in teaching a class.

Scrip Gift Cards: Scrip gift cards can be ordered online at www.Scripcents.com using Amberly code: HE6KE7H.

Holiday Art: Sarah Beuker: There has been a lot of positive feedback from parents on this project. Holiday Art was finished in the classrooms this week. Donations of holiday wrapping paper are needed and can be dropped off at the office. Volunteers are needed to assemble the project. See Announcements (below) for location and times.

Old Business

Nothing to report.

New Business

Warm Kids Project: See details under Principal's Report.

School Board Position Vacancy: A School Board Trustee resigned on November 6. The Board has 30 days to appoint a replacement who will serve through June 30. The fourth year of the vacated term (ending 2010) will be filled in the May 2009 Board Election. Interested citizens of the District may apply for this seat at the Portage Public School website [www:portageps.org](http://www.portageps.org). The deadline to apply is 2 p.m., November 21.

New Attendance Boundaries: New Attendance Boundaries for Portage Elementary Schools will be presented to the Board of Education on November 24. These boundaries can be viewed at the Portage Public School website. Amberly will maintain all current attendance areas and add one additional area. Enrollment is expected to remain under 600 students. Final Board action is expected on December 15, 2008.

Announcements

- Curriculum Coffee Wednesday December 3, 7pm, please RSVP
- Holiday Art assembly at Sarah Beuker's, 6838 Isabelle St, Portage, Dec 2, 10am-1pm, Dec 4, 10am-1pm and 7-9pm (maybe December 9). Contact Sarah Beuker 323-7802
- Movie Night! Friday December 5, Amberly gym. Doors open 6pm, movie starts 6:30pm, pick up 8:30pm. Contact Kim Gates 323-8997
- Notes & News Deadline is January 9. Contact Ellen Robare erobare@sbcglobal.net
- Tiger Trek fundraiser committee meeting: Tuesday January 13, 9am. Contact Miranda Garside 998-9985 or Heather Beering 372-1839

Next Meeting

The next APT meeting will be Tuesday January 20, 2009 at 9:00 am in the cafeteria

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diane Hamlin, Secretary