

## **APT Meeting Minutes for September 22, 2009 (Pending Approval)**

Heather Beering – President - A Welcome Coffee was held at 8:45am. Volunteer sign-ups were conducted during the Welcome Coffee. The meeting was called to order at 9:00am. There were 46 people present. Welcomes and introductions were conducted. APT Meeting guidelines were reviewed. The May 2009 minutes were distributed and approved.

### **Treasurer's Report: Julie Lawford**

The following Budget Reports were handed out: APT Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual August 2009, 2009-2010 APT Budget Proposal, APT Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2009 and the Amberly APT Treasurer's Report. Copies of these budget reports are available for review upon request.

### **President's Report: Heather Beering**

PPS School Calendar Approved - Upon approval of the Portage School Calendar, the APT Events Calendar has been set. We will continue to alternate our meeting times between morning and evening meetings.

Committee Report Request – If you plan to give a report at the APT meeting, please have a written report prepared for the APT secretary.

Meeting Next Month – The October meeting will be an evening meeting. We are currently looking for a speaker to add to the agenda.

Amberly e-mail List Serve – If you would like to receive Amberly e-mails, please go to the Amberly homepage and sign up for the List Serve.

Thank You – Thank you to all the Tour Volunteers. Thank you to Sherri and Rodney Wagner and the entire BBQ Kick-Off Team. There were many people involved in the food, baskets raffle, games, tickets, spirit wear, and APT Info Table. Thank you to Julia Ridenour and Sherri Wagner for coordinating activities at the Open House. Thank you to all the volunteers at the Cookie Table and Spirit Wear Table. Thanks to all the cookie donators.

Parent Involvement- We look forward to lots of parent involvement this year. We welcome and encourage new families to become a part of all these activities.

### **Past President: Jennifer Gatz**

This is a record turnout for an APT meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend whenever possible. Children are always welcome.

**President Elect: Jeslyn Gordon:** Nothing to report.

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

Fundraiser Explained: It was noted that we no longer conduct a fall fundraiser. Our Fundraiser this year will again be the Tiger Trek – a walking/running event held at Amberly that allows for 100% of student participation. By conducting this fundraiser in the spring, we know what funding is available to plan for the budget for the following school year.

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

Walking Survey/Safe Routes to School Federal Grant Principal Daoust spent a lot of time discussing the steps Portage Public Schools (including Amberly) are taking to ensure safe routes to school for walking students. PPS is currently working with the City of Portage to apply for Federal grant money to use to improve the safety of walking routes to schools. They are currently in the data collecting stage. Once data is collected, PPS and Portage City can apply for this grant. Money from this grant would be used for such things as sidewalks and other reasonable safety items such as speed signs, etc. As part of this process a Walking Survey is being held. This survey will assess the conditions of a

particular walking route. For example, are their sidewalks, how wide are the sidewalks, is there proper lighting, are there safe crossing sites. Parents were asked to volunteer to assist with this survey.

City of Portage Contacts – There was a lot of discussion on how Portage Public Schools and the City of Portage was working together to keep our children safe on their way to school. In an effort to keep children safe as they walk/ride bikes to school, it was suggested that parents can contact the City of Portage (Peter Strazda – Mayor and M. Arif – Portage Traffic Engineer) to request that the City be prepared to take actions to help keep our children safe. Parents discussed the following items as ways that the City of Portage should get involved to help keep our children safe: enforcing speed limits near schools and on the walking routes, enforcing clean and safe sidewalks (in areas where there are sidewalks), removal of snow from sidewalks and streets, salting and plowing roadways on school walking routes prior to 7:00am on school days, additional police support, additional street lighting. Please contact Tom Vance ([tvance@portageps.org](mailto:tvance@portageps.org)) as the Portage Public School contact for these issues.

School Start Time – The school start time will be at 8:35am. There will only be one bell at the start of the school day. The earliest children should be dropped off at Amberly is 8:25am. With the approved school calendar, 4 snow days are allowed. If the school exceeds that number, February 26, 2010 will be used as a makeup day. This topic generated a lot of discussion and questions, such as “If there is only one bell, at what time is a student considered tardy?” Mrs. Daoust stated that “students are considered tardy at 8:45 a.m”. Other questions arose regarding how the calendar was developed and concerns regarding possible loss of instructional time. Mrs. Daoust requested that these types of questions be directed to Rick Perry at [rperry@portageps.org](mailto:rperry@portageps.org).

### **Committee Reports**

Mother – Son Event: Linda Lee: The Mother Son Event will be held on October 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 at Formula K. Volunteers are still needed.

BBQ Kickoff and Spiritwear: Sherri and Rodney Wagner: The BBQ Kickoff was a success. Thank you to the following for your support and donations: Bartley Farms, Norman’s Foods, Ed’s Breads, A Pizza Yen, Gordon Food Service, Sam’s Club, Coke, Red’s Grill, Amberly Families, KIC, National Honor Society. Spirit Ware also generated profits at this event.

Site Based Team: Priscilla Pedraza: There is a new approved calendar for Portage Public Schools. There will be no half days this year. Only two days are allocated for evening conferences. Teacher Appreciation Week – the teachers would like to limit this to one event (not a week long activity) with a lunch and a simple note written from students to show their appreciation to the teachers. A week long event is felt to be too hard on families especially during these economic times. Birthday Treats – Please only send in enough treats for the classroom. Students will no longer be allowed to leave the classroom to distribute extra treats. Please consider non-food treats such as pencils and erasers. No Staff Solicitations – Teachers would like to request that there be no solicitation in the classroom (i.e. no trying to sell fundraising items to the teachers).

### **Old Business**

Staff Gifts: A motion was made and approved for APT to provide a gift of \$50 to full time staff and \$25 to part time staff. This money will be put on a school account and will be used to help the teachers buy needed items for the class.

Guitar Program Update- Currently Amberly and Woodland are sharing a set of guitars for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade guitar program. The goal is to have a set for each school; this would minimize damage that can occur during transport. A \$300 Target grant went toward buying books.

### **New Business**

Walking/Busing to School: This topic generated a lot of discussion. A group parents from Milham Meadows presented their efforts on trying to get busing reestablished for the Milham Meadows and Whispering Meadows neighborhoods. Additional highlights of this discussion can be found under the Principal’s Report.

After School Enrichment/Achievement Expo Lara Hobson: After School Enrichment will be January – March 2010. This is a series of educational classes instructed by Amberly Parents. The Achievement Expo will be held in conjunction with the After School Enrichment program. Items from the Achievement Expo (such as science projects and collections) as well as After School Enrichment items (such as a drama performance) will be on display. The possibility of having a Talent Show as part of this event was discussed.

### **Announcements**

- Mother-Son Event – Thursday October 15 5:30-7:30 Formula K
- Notes& News Deadline contact Kristy Zeluff, [kkminer@chartermi.net](mailto:kkminer@chartermi.net)

### **Next Meeting**

The next APT Meeting will be Tuesday October 20, 2009 at 7pm in the Media Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.