

**APT Meeting Minutes for  
April 20, 2010 (Pending Approval)**

Heather Beering – President - The meeting was called to order at 9:00am. There were 14 people present plus guest speakers Tom Vance and Carol Richardson. Welcomes and introductions were conducted. The March 2010 minutes were distributed and approved.

Note: Due to time constraints for certain speakers, the meeting was not necessarily conducted in the order presented below. Minutes are presented in this order for consistency purposes.

**Treasurer's Report: Julie Lawford**

The following Budget Reports were handed out: APT Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual August 2009 through March 2010 and the Amberly APT Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2010. Copies of these budget reports are available for review upon request. There was discussion on the current asset balance.

**President's Report: Heather Beering**

Tiger Trek - Tiger Trek is on Friday April 23 with a rain date of April 30. Goal is \$19,000. To date, pledges total \$8091. This is for 156 students or 27% of the student population at Amberly. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to work on this project.

50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Reminder – Amberly's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration will be in the fall during the Open House. If you would like to work on this fun activity, please contact Heather Beering or Jeslyn Gordon.

Ice Cream Social and Retirement Reception - During the Amberly Student Council Ice Cream Social on May 18, a cake and punch reception will be held in the Media Center for the 6 retiring Amberly teachers – Mrs. Mann, Mrs. Derhammer, Mrs. Stahel, Mr. Kiracofe, Mrs. Simunovic, and Mrs. Elliot. If you have any photos of these teachers from their student or teaching past, please contact the office. Also at this event, Bronson Hospital will be conducting Bike Helmet fittings. Bike helmets will be available for purchase for \$10.

Thank you: Michele Sweat – Project Charlie chair  
Lily Wang, Rita McKenzie, and Ellen Robare – 3, 4, 5 grade Math Leagues  
Anne Louise Coryell and Heather Palmer – 3, 4 grade Jr. Great Books

**Past President: Jennifer Gatz:** Nothing to Report

**President Elect: Jeslyn Gordon**

Committee/Board Positions for 2010/2011: A full slate of nominees is in place for the upcoming Officer Elections in May. Open Committee Chair positions are still available. The most immediate need is for a committee chair for the BBQ Kickoff in the fall. If you are interested please contact Jeslyn Gordon. Also needed is someone to chair BoxTops and Friday Folders.

**Committee Reports**

CIC Rita McKenzie: The next meeting is tomorrow. The CIC Proposal for the Chinese language/cultural study program passed. The Personal Finance Course did not pass as written. The Middle School Social Studies purchase will be voted on at the upcoming meeting. A Science Review is currently being conducted.

Enrichment Rita McKenzie: A Geo Science presentation is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. A total of 20 volunteers are needed for this presentation (2 parents/classroom). Currently only 3 volunteers have signed up.

Math League Success – Math League has wrapped up. All the participants in grades 3, 4, and 5 worked hard and had a great time in the online math league. The Amberly Fourth Grade Math League finished first in the state of Michigan and tied with two other schools having the 8<sup>th</sup> highest score out of 73 competing teams in the US and Canada. Great Job to the kids and all the volunteers!

Staff Appreciation – Betsy Scheffel/Kim Warren (presented by Betsy) – will be May 3-7. A note will be sent home in Friday Folders with possible ideas to show teacher appreciation. A Staff Luncheon will be held on Friday. Please sign up to donate an item. A breakfast will be held for the bus drivers in the near future (date to be finalized).

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

MEAP Scores: Mrs. Daoust conducted a presentation reviewing the MEAP Scores. She presented a thorough analysis of the data. Included in this review were reading and math scores for third – five grade (and science scores for 5<sup>th</sup> grade). Data was looked at for Amberly students vs. Portage District, vs. state of Michigan results. Data was further analyzed by gender, economics, and ability. If you would like to see this data, please contact Mrs. Daoust.

Breakfast with Books Recently at Amberly, parents of children in the reading support programs had the opportunity to spend breakfast with their child while reading. This program was offered as part of the reading support programs. Over 45 families participated in this event which was held for upper elementary students and their families. This event and others such as the Before School Reading Club, and After School Homework Club are designed to provide positive interventions for students who are challenged in certain academic areas. Title 1 Funding helps to provide financing for these types of events.

### **New Business**

#### Guest Speaker Carol Richardson – ISAAC – Action for Education Summit

Carol Richardson was present to explain the mission of ISAAC (Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community). ISAAC is a grass roots lobbying group who is working to protect early childhood education. This group is asking Lansing officials for stable and adequate funding for education programs for children from birth to grade 12. Ms. Richardson noted that the current setup for educational funding in Michigan only works in a good economy. ISAAC will be holding a summit on April 24 from 9:00am to noon at the Maple Street Magnet School.

#### Guest Speaker – Tom Vance, PPS Community Relations Manager

Tom Vance spoke on the Building Site Sinking Fund which is up for renewal during the May 4 election. This 0.5 millage rate renewal will cost the average taxpayer \$38 per year and will continue to generate about \$1.2 million per year. This fund has been renewed consistently since 1966. It is important to note that this is a renewal – no new taxes will be imposed with the approval of this millage. This money is used for necessary repairs, maintenance, and improvements to school buildings, structures, and parking areas. Mrs. Daoust noted how money from this millage, if approved, would be used at Amberly. Currently, plans are being developed to move the flag pole from the court yard to the front of the building, widening the front sidewalk (for safety purposes), enhancing the front of the building to establish a designated “front entrance”, brightening the front of the building, changes to the office area and health room to establish a visual site line to the front door, and enlarging a restroom in the health room to make it handicap accessible. Sarah Bricknell noted that \$1.2 million is needed to maintain the current buildings. If this millage is not approved, this money will have to come from the operating budget. Please remember to vote on May 4.

#### Sarah Bricknell – Portage Education Foundation (PEF) – Protecting Educations Future Now

PEF Now was established in 2010 in response to community feedback on how to address the school-funding crisis. Individuals may now make a tax deductible donation to PEF Now. This money will go to the Portage Public School System. PEF Now is requesting that each household donate \$1/day. This will help raise \$1.3 million per year to help save programs and protect our education. Additional information is available on their website at <http://www.portageeducationfoundation.org>

2010-2011 APT Budget Proposal (Julie Lawford) was presented. This budget will be voted on at the May APT meeting.

## **Announcements**

- Staff Bathroom renovations - summer
- Administrative Professionals Day – April 21
- Spring Pictures – April 22
- Tiger Trek – April 23 (rain date April 30)
- Ice Cream Social/Retirement reception – May 18

## **Next Meeting**

The next APT Meeting will be Tuesday May 18 at 9:00am in the Cafeteria.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diane Hamlin, Secretary