

**Sangster Elementary School  
PTA Business Meeting  
September 22 2005**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

Opening - introduction of personnel and pass around roster.

**President's Announcements – Andi Smith:**

- Andi shared with everyone the thank you notes received from the teachers for the breakfast and the new grants provided to the teachers.
- The new volunteer orientation held was a huge success. Andi asked that you please be sure to contact volunteers. They have expressed an interest in helping. If you cannot use all of your volunteers, please let those you don't need/can't use know and suggest they consider an alternative activity.
- Andi shared with everyone how to subscribe to PTO Magazine.

**Approval of August PTA meeting minutes – Susan Otto:**

Motion and seconded to approve. Motion carried.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report – Amy Clemson:**

Noted that budget for instructional support lines (i.e. Math, English) are detailed to allow discretionary movement of funds.

Budget approved by Executive Board. Motion carried to approve budget by PTA.

**Principal's Report - Gail Kinsey:**

- We were able to keep all of the teachers, but had to come up with \$23K to keep them. Glad to have consolidation of class funds.
- Getting new doors for the remaining classroom.
- The school will be getting new school access system to better control personnel entering the school. Security cameras will be included. Will be staffed by the front office from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- Volunteer meeting; well attended. Orientation meeting; also well attended.
- Bus routes problematic. If we flood the transportation office with complaints, then there is a high probability we go to a late bell (9:10am start with a 3:50pm departure). Bus problem is in part the result of insufficient qualified drivers who also live locally and know the roads in the area. There also appears to be a concern that those who are placing complaints with transportation are being less than diplomatic in their handling of the matter. Gail asked that families give the system a couple weeks to hit its norm. DOT's preference was for us to go to late bell.
- New Assistant Superintendent for Sangster's cluster is Leslie Butts. She was previously at Marshall High School.
- Many thanks for all the help in the front office and for stuffing folders on the first day of school.

**Vice Principal's Report - Amy Goodloe:**

- The book fair and ice cream social are being combined and will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Lifetouch will be present that evening for family portraits. Lifetouch is donating 2 family portrait packages as bingo prizes.

- Testing season is all year. Grade level assessments will be given next week in grades 3 – 6. This is to identify those needing help early - not part of a grade, but as a teaching aid.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Cogat testing in October.

### **Staff Report - Maurie Negrin:**

- Thanks for the breakfast and teacher grants!
- Trying to start after school homework club with late bus; staffed with teachers and parent volunteer (starting in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter).
- Would like to start a “deployment group” for parents. This would be an informal support group to get together, share tips, anxieties, etc.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Chess – Penny Grammer:**

- US Chess has abandoned us. All of the teachers we are used to have quit. Has no one he trusts to teach the kids.
- Coordinator (Penny Grammer) continues to look for alternatives.
- Won't be starting the first Friday in October.
- Possibly students or instructors at TJ, Lake Braddock, West Springfield, GMU, to see if they would be interested.

#### **Drama Club – Felicia Payne, Sandy Mathews:**

- There has been a lot of response from students wanting to participate.
- The company we have contracted with has one teacher that has left; they are only going to have two (of three) sessions planned. The students will be disappointed.
- Musical drama paperwork came home in Thursday folders.
- Will check into other drama groups for the future.

#### **FLEX – Debbie Murphy:**

- Survey's came home today.
- Kindergarten Spanish class.
- Spanish, French, German, Russian
- Mrs. Abu - will teach French
- Starting in mid-October

#### **Magic/Skateboarding – Shelly Bralich:**

- Magic with James Wand – upcoming event, will take place for 6 weeks. Lots of fun last year.
- Skateboarding/Inline skating - can handle up to 25 Kids. Planned to take place on Friday afternoons.

#### **Robotics – Karen Horvath:**

- Karen Horvath will be coordinating the program. Budget provided \$100 to make sure it runs this year.
- Plan to run it as an in-house program.

#### **Membership/Box tops/Giant/Safeway - Carolyn Minesinger:**

- Have 521 members (336 families)
- Giant program starts Oct 2 (need to get back to 353 people minimum).
- EScrip may come in monthly as an electronic transfer.
- Most people don't always have both parents join the PTA. If people ask, say it is better for both

parents to join.

**Care Team – Lisa Okada:**

- Opportunity to help through some of the good times and bad.
- There is a desire to start “new parent buddy system”. This is to help new parents so if they have questions they will not feel like they are bothering anybody. This may be handled through the Care Team or may have its’ own coordinator.

**Cultural Arts – Kristin McDaniel/Susan Paris:**

- Nana Puddin IS coming on October 4<sup>th</sup>!
- Trying to work out something in Feb 06 (possibly “Frisbee guy” or other venue) as a Family Night event.
- Tales of Egypt will be presented for the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Mad Science – Kristin McDaniel will be coordinating this event.

**Directory – Jo Rochlis/Karen Ray:**

- Front cover of directory will be orange this year.
- Forms have been a big help in obtaining information.
- Plan to make a draft copy available early October for review. Will send out a notice through FCPS “Keep in Touch.”

**Family Events – Katie Spicer:**

- Back to School Bingo Night on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Ice Cream Social, Book Fair, and Family Portraits on October 18, 2005.
- Looking into a “Float & Film night” at South Run once it reopens.
- Consider coordinating “Frisbee night” at the South Run Field House.

**Library – Catherine Beck:**

- Library volunteers up to 15.
- Upcoming book fair will run after school (3-8PM) on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Newsletter – Linda McMahon:**

- Deadline for submitting articles/information is 9/28, delivery following week (10/6).

**Reflections – Kathy Burke:**

- Submission deadline Nov 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Awards - Nov 17<sup>th</sup>
- Photo judges are needed.

**Sally Foster – Lee Anne Long/Eileen McGarry:**

- Need help tallying orders.
- Delivery will be on a Monday. Need help there as well.
- Estimation game - worked out great!

**Spirit Wear – Barbara Clark:**

- Spirit wear will be fluorescent orange!

- Keep the order forms coming in

**Old Business:**

- Plan to get Rachel Simmons - Author of “Odd Girl Out” for a speaking engagement. Currently scheduled Wednesday, March 15, 7PM -10PM (2 hours speaking, 1 hours Q&A/book signing). Will be held at Irving Middle School and will seat 250. Will be announced on Website. Grant money may be available to subsidize the event.

**New Business:**

- Lowes is offering a \$5K grant. Pam Haberstroh has experience writing grant applications. Two deadlines (Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and Mar 1<sup>st</sup>). May consider the building of a small reflection/retreat area as a memorial. Vegetable garden, butterfly garden, John Long comes to mind.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan J. Otto  
PTA Secretary