

## Kramer Lane PTA Meeting Minutes

MARCH 26, 2008

Called to order 7:40 p.m.

Pledge

A Quorum of 10 was established.

Minutes of last month's meeting accepted in a motion by Chris Calamia and seconded by Kathy Neuman.

**Treasurer's Report** – Kathy Kerrigan and Lauren Resnitzky approved the Treasurer's report.

**Corresponding Secretary** – There was no correspondence this month. Please see the PTA bulletin board for all past correspondence.

### Teachers Report-

- Kindergarteners celebrated the beginning of spring with literature, crafts, and some special treats. They have been working hard on letters and sounds. All classes visited the Bethpage Library this month. The children learned all the things the library has to offer. Each child got his/her own library card. The children also celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday & read lots of his books.
- Third Grade students went to the Bethpage Library this month. The children enjoyed the program, took a book home and made a craft. Please remember to return your child's book to the library. Before spring break, the children helped two high school students with a science fair project they were doing. The high school students performed a magic trick and asked if any third graders could figure it out. We all had a good time. Thanks to our third grade parents for helping us collect items for three wonderful causes. We appreciate the food goodies, stationary items for the PTA Fashion Show, and the money for Pennies for Patients.
- Fourth Grade students are working hard on their country reports and are looking forward to their feast in May. The class can't wait to show off their science experiments at the K.L. Science Fair on Tuesday. We also would like to thank the parents for sending in all the wonderful donations from the Fashion Show baskets. N.Y.S. Science Test is on 4/15 & 4/16.
- Fifth Grade students successfully collected \$572.76 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and thank them for all of their support.
- P.E.-Students in grades K-5 have been actively participating in our Jump Rope for Heart annual school-wide activity. Please send donations in an envelope to be placed in the PE Heart Mailbox outside the gymnasium. Make checks out to American Heart Association or seal cash in the envelope. Thanks in advance.
- Library- Author and Illustrator, Lisa Desamini, visited the school today. The students all had a great time and received signed copies of a book. Thanks for all the PTA's support.

### Standing Committee Report-

- **PARP**- With their budget approved, they are moving forward. Materials will be given out on 4/11 with assembly on 4/14.
- **Family Science Night**- Had a great turnout and everyone had an excellent time. Thanks so much to Tina Rothenberger and Eileen Hanley for all your hard work. The PTA really appreciates it!
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook**-The yearbook was sent to the printer and is presently being printed.
- **Book Fair**-Volunteers are needed to assist the committee. The dates are April 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mother's Day Plant Sale**- The committee is checking into vendors & also looking into pre-ordering. Dates are 5/8 & 5/9.
- **Pretzel Sale**- No date as of yet. Terry Gunning informed us the pretzels would be pre-ordered.

### Executive Committee-

- **Folders**- Committee members, please make an outline for the future committee members to follow. It is hard to take over a new committee with no guidance especially parents new to the school so please take the time to prepare a quick "how to" for the next person.
- **Rules for Committees**- Remember, everything that is ordered for the committees needs to be sent to Kramer Lane's Main Office. NOT to a private home. Further, committee members must ensure they properly safeguard any "extras" or supplies in the PTA basement either in Rubbermaid bins (available in the basement) or on shelves.
- **News Letter**- Any committee that would like information in the newsletter please call Jen Falco.
- **Nominating Committee**-Rose Vangi informed membership that we are still looking for a Recording Secretary and a Corresponding Secretary nomination.
- **Board of Ed**- Meeting took place 3/25/08. \*Kindergarten construction ahead of schedule and moving along nicely. \*Approved that the proposition to establish a capital reserve fund be placed before voters at the District's Annual Meeting on May 20. The capital reserve fund will lie out a 5-year facilities and construction plan and establish a fund for the plan. Voters must approve the plan and fund and any monies used from that fund must also be approved via public vote. It is important to the Board that continuous improvements are made to facilities and that the public approves them. \*The Board rejected the bid of a contractor for the reconstruction of the Bethpage High School pool. They are submitting the project for re-bid. \*Excelsior Transportation Consultants have been chosen to conduct the transportation study for our district. The project will look at current transpiration usage and routes and recommend updates and changes. This hasn't been done since the 70's. The cost will be \$37,500. \* Astronomy Night was a big success although night was overcast. Next year intent is to move the event to the fall for a better chance at agreeable weather. \* Superintendent Day was successful and well received. Focus was 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, which is learning going forward. Rather than a focus on no child left behind this is a focus on what children today need to know in a Global economy. \*Teachers from all grade levels were able to work together in grade groups in specific workshops. This is rarely an option for them. \*High School Musical will take place April 3 – 5. "Little Shop of Horrors". Tickets can be purchased at the door.
- **PTA Council**- #1-Bethpage has been awarded a Full Day Kindergarten Grant & will receive \$10,000 for each class setup in order to purchase items such as furniture and computers. #2-Proximas will be installed in elementary schools. #3- The

PTA dinner will be held at the Woodlands on South Woods Road on June 9<sup>th</sup>. #4-Kramer Lane collected 406 lbs. of food during the food drive, which will be matched monetarily by Long Island Food Care. #5-The Children Helping Children's committee is holding a clothing drive April 7th through April 10<sup>th</sup>. #6-Don't forget we are still collecting toner, ink, & laser cartridges for recycling.

- **Site Based-#1** PARP kickoff set for 4/14. #2 Discussed need for committees to get PTA Ex Board before going to site base for presentations when required (see Dr. C's notes below). #3 Discovery program will be at K.L. this summer. Concerns were voiced about their presence being a problem as far as construction in the Kindergarten wing is concerned. The district has assured Dr. C. that it won't interfere with the timely completion of all the planned work. #4 Dr. C. met with the Nutrition committee re lunch program for next year (see below) #5 The plans for the pretzel sale fundraiser seem to be up in the air. The teachers have concerns about the administration of the program if and when it goes into effect. They want the process to be as simplified as possible so as not to in any way interfere with the teaching of their classes.

### **Principal's Report-**

Dr. Cicione informed Kramer Lane PTA Executive Board and Membership of the following:

1. Explained to Kramer Lane PTA Membership the importance of starting fresh in the 2008 Spring Season by all K. L. parents working cooperatively together with their elected parent representatives, the Kramer Lane PTA Executive Board, to accomplish the following for the remainder of this school year, next school year, etc.:
  1. (a) Parents are asked to volunteer for the many K. L. PTA Committees to accomplish the various work necessary to benefit our K-5 Grade Children. The K. L. PTA needs your assistance even if your assistance is part time - every bit of parental assistance helps us all;
  1. (b) All K. L. PTA Committee Chairpersons are to present proposal for their committee assignments to the K. L. PTA Executive Board for their review, financing and approval;
  1. (c) K. L. Site Based Team will only review proposed K. L. PTA Committee Plans that have been reviewed, financed and approved by the K. L. PTA Executive Board;
  1. (d) All K. L. PTA Class Representatives have an important responsibility in facilitating parent communications throughout the school year and they are expected to attend a minimum of three (3) K. L. PTA Meetings a school year.
  1. (e) New realistic ideas and positive attitudes are essential and necessary for all K. L. PTA Executive Board Representative and K. L. PTA Members to work cooperatively and together to raise needed funds to support our ambitious K. L. PTA Budget that has grown from approximately \$3,000 a year in 1978-79 to \$29,000 a year in 2007-08.
2. Announced that the Bethpage District-wide Nutrition Committee is working with Mr. James Bigley, an experienced Food / Nutrition Consultant. Mr. Bigley will prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) that will encompass many positive healthy food and snack suggestions to improve for our Bethpage School Lunch Menu offerings, provide an Internet Nutrition Menu information system and provide new ways for parents to purchase lunches in advanced by using selected credit cards.
3. Explained that Bethpage Elementary Teachers are reviewing several new English Language Arts (ELA) Series for adoption in the 2008-09 school year and final Bethpage ELA Committee recommendations will be made during later part of this month.
4. Confirmed that a Transportation Consultant is being sought and hired to work with a Bethpage District-wide Committee to review and make new recommendations to Bethpage Board of Education on the current Bethpage Transportation Routes and Policy during the 2008-09 school year.
5. (A) Confirmed that the Scholastic book selection for the Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) Program will incorporate our 2007-08 Kramer Lane (K-5 Grade) School Theme: "Random Acts of Kindness / Kindness Counts" with emphasis on the Character Education Traits of Fairness, Empathy, Honesty, Perseverance, and Self-Discipline.
5. (B) Also, Mr. Clark will be informing us of the status of remaining BOCES Cultural Arts Funding available for PARP Kick-off and Kramer Lane's 50 Plus Anniversary Celebration Programs in early March 2008.
6. Announced that the Kramer Lane Allergy Friendly Snack Answer Vending Machine was successfully opened for business after Dr. Cicione instructed our 1-5 Grade children on how to use this machine properly to purchase snacks only (i.e., snacks are NOT a substitute for a balanced lunch), if their parents permitted them to purchase snacks from this machine. A total of six children were not permitted to use this vending machine.
7. Announced that Kramer Lane PTA's Family Science Night presented by Mad Science on the Thursday, March 13, 2008 was a huge success with 101 children present with their parents. We will be looking to continue working with Mad Science for both the K. L. PTA After School Science Club Program in Jan-February 2009 and Family Science Night in March 2009.
8. Announced that the new Kindergarten Room Construction is on schedule and Central Administration is looking into updating the furniture and room layout in the Kindergarten Rooms of 111 and 112 for September 2008.
9. Mr. Anthony Fede conducted a Bethpage District-wide Emergency Management Committee Meeting on Monday, March 17, 2008. Bethpage Faculty and Staff Identification (ID) Badges will be issued once the district receives the appropriate software with the next month or so. Given 30 Years of Nassau County Police Data on School Bomb Threats, new Nassau County Police recommendations are being reviewed and considered for our procedural reactions to school Bomb Threats.

Meeting Adjourned @ 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose Vangi

Kramer Lane Recording Secretary

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