



Montessori by the Sea PTO Minutes

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Meeting called to order: 2:45 by President, Anna Womack

Attendance: Laurie Loyst, Consuelo Wilkinson, Betsy Liebel, Wendy Holmes, Valerie Laurent, Mark Hollan, Nicole Morris, Trisha Fridella, Mila Foote, Wendy Cousins Savage, Anna Womack, Judi Dunlap, Becky Papa, Denise Tomey, Nicole Wilson, Paul Tomey, Reata Kluzek, Nicole Morris.

Holiday Program: Thanks to Laurie Loyst for doing such a great job. The feedback was wonderful and the kids had a great time.

Valentine's Dance: This year's valentine's dance will be on Friday, 2/11, at Webster Hall from 6 - 9 pm. It will be a pot luck dinner. No alcohol please, as this is a children's event. There will be a photographer taking the children's pictures and a raffle to raise money for the school. New/updated decorations are needed if you have any to contribute or donate.

Golf Tournament: This is scheduled for May 21st and is our next big fundraising event. There is a meeting at Ana Womack's house on Wednesday, 1/12/11, at 8:45 to begin working on this. Volunteers are needed! This information was published in the news letter. Nicole Morris is spearheading this event. The immediate priority is sponsorship. The goal is to have the cost of the event covered by sponsorship so that the money paid by golfers will directly go to benefit MBTS.

Other Fundraiser: Judi would like to sell coffee, tea and chocolates as an additional fundraiser. This needs to be done while the weather is cool so the chocolates don't melt. She has sent away for an informational packet and expects to receive it shortly. The suggestion was made to run this fundraiser in March due to the Valentine's dance being in February and also being a fundraiser.

Mark Hollan/Board Update: Mark reported that all is well with the business end of MBTS and the relationship between MBTS and the church is improving. He thanked everyone for their hard work this year.

Mark mentioned the bookkeeping will be coming in-house to MBTS beginning immediately. Parents, please be patient with us during this transition. Ultimately, this will improve our level of service. However, there will be a transition period.

The church has asked that we sponsor Fellowship hour on April 17th from 10 am to 11 am. Our responsibilities for this date will be to provide coffee, punch and snacks for the congregation. In

addition, this is our opportunity to showcase our school. This can be done through pictures and by having representatives of the school (parents, teachers and children) available to talk about the school. We are expected to serve beverages and be available to assist in the clean-up afterward. Please mark your calendars.

Enrollment right now is strong. We have taken new students into the Elementary program, which is very encouraging. A re-enrollment campaign will begin next month. There will be 2 meetings for parents who are making decisions about school placement for the 2011/2012 school year. The first meeting will be for parents of pre-k students regarding the importance of keeping their child in Montessori for Kindergarten. The suggestion was made to make this a night-time meeting so all parents can attend. The second meeting will be for Kindergarteners moving up to 1st grade. This second meeting will include a demonstration of materials by current elementary students. Dates for these meetings will be announced shortly. If your child fits into one of these categories, please make sure to attend these meetings! Re-enrollment for current students will begin in February and there will be incentives available to those who chose to commit early. Enrollment will open to the public in March.

Community Service: Thank you to the Community Service team for all they have done. Our next campaign will be to prepare Valentine goodie bags which will be delivered to children living in a homeless shelter. Also, we will soon be picking a date to cook for Ronald McDonald House. Look for more information about these events!

Other on-going community service campaigns are Pennies for Peace, Aman Iman and Clothing for Migrant Children. Please continue to have your children collect pocket change for Pennies for Peace. Also, please continue to bring any clothing you may have to donate and leave it in the designated box at the bottom of the ramp to the blue building. The Upper Elementary students have done a fantastic job with raising money for Aman Iman. Some students have even done personal fund-raising on their own and donated that money for this charity. Way to go!

Paul Tomey and Mark Hollan mentioned there is a Habitat for Humanity work day scheduled for 1/22. Please contact Mark or Paul if you are interested in participating in this. This is not an MBTS sponsored event, just an FYI.

Garden/Grounds: The new deck looks GREAT! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped and a great big thank you to members of the Pass-a-Grille Beach Community Church who donated their time, talents and tools to rebuild this deck! There will be one final work day to finish the front stairs and stabilize the railings. This is scheduled for Saturday, 1/15, at 9 am. Volunteers are needed.

The next work days will be scheduled for the first 2 weekends in March. One weekend will be dedicated to the grounds and garden, while the other will be a "fix-it" work day. More info to come!

The worms are coming back! Thank you to Ms. Becky's class for volunteering to maintain the worms and spearhead this project. A representative from the worm farm will be delivering the worms and having a demonstration for the children.

Green Team: The fun run was a great success this past Saturday. Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed a beautiful Saturday morning on the beach. There will be a beach clean-up on Thursday, 1/20, right after school. Please mark your calendars and come out to help clean our beach.

Holiday Parade: Anna wanted to say a special thank you to Ed Kohler for his hard work on the float. It came out great!

Hospitality/Social Committee: Anna asked that someone volunteer to be in-charge of hospitality to make sure new families are welcome. This person will also be in charge of thank-you cards, birthday cards, etc. Wendy Holmes volunteered to do this. Having a "home room parent" for each class was also discussed. Anna stated she would work on this.

Public Relations/Marketing: We have purchased an ad in the Tour of Homes booklet, Families on the Go magazine and on the Channel 10 Web site.

Please take a stack of brochures and distribute them where you can in the community (i.e. pediatrician's office, etc.). Brochure holders will be purchased and placed at the front and back entrance to the school.

Addition to Committees: Anna mentioned there is a need to add "Holiday Program" and "Hospitality" to the list of committees. She felt these two areas suffered this past year by not having someone assigned to them specifically.

PTO Membership Dues: These are \$15.00 per family. If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so.

Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.