Thompson PFA Meeting Minutes

 January 10, 2011

 Meeting was called to order at 9:23. A motion was raised to waive the reading of the November minutes. The motion passed. PFA Co-president Dana Johnson introduced Superintendant Karen Bilbao to update those present on the principal search for Thompson. Mrs. Bilbao said that the position was posted and candidates had the usual 2 rounds of interviews. The 1st round of interviews was run by a group comprised of faculty members and parents. The 2nd round was led by a central office committee. 4 candidates were selected for the second round and for a variety of reasons, including candidates accepting positions at other schools, the position was not filled by the end of December. The position was reposted at the beginning of January. In the meantime, Mrs. Facendo was appointed interim principal. Mrs. Bilbao said she will make a recommendation to the Board to have Mrs. Facendo established as the principal on a permanent basis. Mrs. Bilbao stressed that Mrs. Facendo’s experience and the need to maintain consistency at Thompson make her an excellent choice. Several parents spoke in support of Mrs. Facendo’s expertise and dedication to education. Questions arose regarding Mrs. Facendo’s position as District Director of Curriculum – Humanities. Mrs. Bilbao said that most of her administrative assignments will have to be reassigned. Dana Johnson suggested that parents should e-mail the PFA regarding Mrs. Facendo and these observations will be compiled and passed along to the Board. Additionally, Dana recommended that parents speak out during the public comments session of the next Board of Ed meeting.

 Mrs. Stefanelli and Mrs. Ryan are organizing Diversity Day for 8th graders on Wednesday, February 2nd. The day will include 6 speakers and a multicultural luncheon. Volunteers are needed for set-up, serving and clean-up. A sign-up sheet was passed around and volunteers will be contacted one week prior to the date.

 Karen Romanelli presented the Treasurer’s report. Granny’s Attic brought in almost $3,000 more than what was budgeted. The report was available at the front table.

 Linda Cendagorta presented the list of this year’s teacher grants. A total of $9,919 was awarded in grants. The list of grants was made available at the front table. Please see Linda if you have any questions.

 Guidance Counselor Jim Anderson discussed the honors program. Mr. Gomulka will be meeting with 8th grade students regarding their 9th grade course selection. Information will be sent out to parents shortly. 6th and 7th grade students will have a letter included with their report cards discussing the honors program. A test will be administered to all 7th graders and scores will be one part of the criteria considered for placement into Algebra 1. Please call your child’s guidance counselor if you have any questions. Honors acceptances will be mailed out the first week of June.

 The Gym was dedicated to Mrs. Houston in December. Additionally, a card was received from Mr. Houston thanking the PFA for providing the hors d’oeuvres at his retirement dinner.

 The PFA and the entire Thompson community were deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Newfield. The PFA sent a wreath to the memorial service.