Thompson PFA Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order to at 9:25 am. A motion was raised to waive the reading of the January minutes. The motion passed. Karen Romanelli presented the Treasurer’s report. Money in January was paid out for teacher grants, Diversity Day and for a Bottlecapper’s donation. Copies of the current report were available at the front table.

Vice President Linda Cendagorta gave an update on the teacher grants. Out of the 38 grant requests that were approved, 21 teachers have submitted bills for payment. Mrs. Resnick and Mrs. Jessurun sent a thank you to the PFA for their models of a human head and a human torso.

Mrs. Facendo said that Thompson is hoping to pilot some new electives during the next school year. Please email the PFA if you are interested in joining a committee that will explore the various options. Mrs. Facendo will be visiting the 5th graders at the 4 sending elementary schools. An Open House for incoming 6th grade parents will be held on February 23th at 7 pm. 8 Thompson teachers attended a technological conference in Atlantic City and some of the concepts learned will be implemented in the classrooms. Mrs. Facendo plans on repairing the glass cases in the rotunda and hopes to place 3 monitors and mini-laptops inside the cases. Students’ PBLs will be displayed on these monitors. A monitor will also be placed in the main office for parents to view these PBLs while they are waiting to pick up their children. Mrs. Ford introduced the PBL contest that will be running during the 3rd quarter. Each grade has a different theme and prizes will be awarded. Tech Tutors is a new, 22 member club that will give extra help to students before and after school. Mrs. Facendo urged parents to submit any suggestions for change at Thompson into the PFA mailbox located in the front office.

A parent expressed her concern that the dances were not properly monitored and that perhaps rules for appropriate behavior and dress should be implemented. Mrs. Facendo said that rules will be enforced and that student conduct both at the dances and in school will be addressed. Mrs. Ford is starting a lunch group for girls that will help them learn to be empowered. A parent also expressed concern about Facebook and cyberspace security issues. The PTA will look into having a parent workshop on these security issues.

A parent asked about the new guidelines for using the Media Center before school. Mrs. Ford said that students need a pass from a teacher prior to using the Media Center. Two lines will be created in the morning at the side door of the school. One line will be for students who wish to see a teacher for extra help. The other line will be for students who want to go to the Media Center.

Mr. Gomulka said he will meet with all 8th graders this month and will help them complete their course selections for high school. After the meeting, each student will have a sheet to take home to parents that lists the courses selected.

Dana Johnson said that all math classes except for one had Smart Boards. She asked for approval to purchase this Smart Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda Cendagorta presented the PIC report. A SAC counselor presented a overview on bullying. She urges everyone to refer to [www.bullystoppers.com](http://www.bullystoppers.com) for more information. The School Board is exploring options for middle school and high school graduation venues. Thompson’s graduation might be at High School South in order to cut down costs. A new policy has been implemented for custodial services. When a permit is filed to use a school, the district will be charging custodial fees after 11pm on weekdays and for the entirety of the weekends.

Kathy Noah said the Budget Ad Hoc Committee will meet on February 17th. She will give updates as the budget becomes available.

Dana discussed the scholarships monies that Thompson gives out at the end of the year. 4 Thompson students receive $100 each. Additionally, $1,000 in scholarship money is given out to high school graduates.

A parent asked about the Chess Club. Mrs. Ford said that the Chess Club will now be a part of the Friendship Club. This information will be posted on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.