Thompson PFA Meeting Minutes

 March 14, 2011

 The meeting was called to order at 9:22 am. A motion was raised to waive the reading of the February minutes. The motion passed. Mrs. Facendo discussed the policy at Thompson regarding bullying. She stated that it is the responsibility of the school to be a zero tolerance zone with regard to issues of bullying. Students have come forth with issues and it has been the school’s policy to address the issues purposefully and quickly.

 Tom Letson, SAC counselor at Middletown High School South, came to discuss the new laws regarding bullying in the schools. The initial law has been in effect since 2002. The new law was actually created to help enforce the old law as well as to include modifications regarding electronic communications. The new part of the law also includes the term “hostile educational environment”. Mr. Letson answered many questions posed by parents. The handbook is being looked at to change the consequences of bullying. Mr. Letson also stated that only the police can press charges. The school can only issue school consequences. He urged parents to check their children’s Facebook page on a daily basis. He also urged parent’s that children need to protect their electronics. If your child’s cell phone is used by someone else and something hostile is sent, your child is also responsible. Additionally, your children should not give out his password.

 Karen Romanelli presented the Treasurer’s report. Expenses are within budget. Fees were paid out for the Honors Breakfast, teacher grants, the winter sports banquet and for the kitchen bill from Granny’s Attic. Copies of an up-to-date report are available on the front table.

 Linda Cendagorta, Vice President, e-mailed the teachers that have yet to submit their bills for the teacher grants. She is hoping to wrap up the accounts by April.

 Monday, April 11th at 9:15 am there will be a full budget presentation. Invitations will be sent out to our 4 sending elementary schools as well. Mrs. Facendo said that an additional social studies teacher was requested for Thompson as well as a middle school SAC counselor.

 Co-President Michele Glynn stated that there are 2 openings next year on the Executive Board, Co-President and Corresponding Secretary. A special appeal was made to River Plaza parents. Additionally, committee heads are needed for next year’s 8th grade breakfast, 8th grade dinner and 8th grade trip. Someone is also need this year to shadow for committee head of Granny’s Kitchen. Anyone interested should contact Michele.

 Dana Johnson, Co-President, suggested that the PFA purchase student response systems for Smart Boards. These systems would allow students to use remote devices to respond to tests and quizzes. The teachers will get immediate feedback as to the progress of the students. The PFA voted unanimously to purchase 5 classroom sets. The PFA also voted unanimously to purchase a stage monitor speaker so a performer can hear himself/herself speak.

 Eva McGee, an 8th grade language arts teacher and the Thompson representative on the Technology Committee, gave a presentation on PowerSchool. This is a web-based student information system that we be utilized by the Thompson faculty starting next fall.

 Mrs. Facendo and Mrs. Ford gave an update on the recent dance. Dress code rules and rules regarding student behavior were strictly enforced. Staff was assigned to specific areas throughout the first floor. Structured activities were offered to students including a Wii dance contest. Pizza delivery was staggered throughout the evening and the dance was a great success.

 \*Please note that mixed paper and cardboard can now be recycled curbside at your home. Check the town’s website for pickup dates.