

## **PTO MINUTES \*\*\*\*\*Meeting of October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

There were approximately 30 staff and parents, and 2 guest speakers.

### **Playground Inspection:**

*Julee Quarve-Peterson: Certified playground safety inspector*

*Mike Boland: District 622*

Principal Town initiated this inspection due to recent injuries to students. Castle's playground structure was put up in 1991 and at the time was in compliance with recommended safety guidelines. Photographs, which were taken by Julee, were shown of the playground area and structure itself. Parts of the structure no longer comply with new guidelines. Erosion and wear have also made the area somewhat unsafe. The school district re-did a drain field last year to make the ground area more usable and safe. They also filled in with more wood fiber to replace some cushioning that has been lost. The safety inspector's recommendation would be to remove the current cement surface under the structure and fill-in with the engineered wood fiber. Parts of the structure would need repair and/or replacement. Candace will be seeking individuals to be on a committee seeking funding and researching alternatives to our current playground area once a final report is given to the district.

**Old Business:** Mrs. Flaherty is our Target representative. She presented the school with a check for \$1072.00. This is earned by dedicating your Target Red Card and/or Target Visa card to Castle Elementary. This brings Castle's total dollars earned to \$18,000 since the program's inception. The fundraiser with Pot Belly's/Barnes and Noble brought in \$750.00 in just that one night. The students' posted artwork and teachers' readings were both a big draw. Thank you to the teachers and the students who contributed their time. Sally Foster is estimated at approximately \$12,000. Thank you to Julie Kelly for a fantastic effort in her last year coordinating this fundraiser. Diane Baker has been shadowing her and will take over for next year.

**Principal's Report:** The staff of Castle Elementary will be working on developing a new mission and vision statement. A foster grandparent has been hired. Her name is Patsy Ellis. She is a retired teacher. She is funded by grants that are provided for that purpose. She will start October 21<sup>st</sup> and will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Literacy Connection is a program that works with K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. We need volunteers for this program. The commitment would be for 30 minutes, two times a week.

**Treasurer's Report:** The PTO budget was handed out and reviewed.

**New Business:** Linda Svoboda gave a tour of her classroom. She explained how leveled books are used and shared amongst teachers. She thanked the PTO and parents for all the resources to keep books in all the children's hands.

**PROPOSALS:** The following proposals were all motioned and voted all in favor:

1. Linda Svoboda requested \$2000.00 for additional take-home books and individual whiteboards for second grade.
2. Lynn Berens requested \$1000.00 for books and shelving for her new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom.
3. Julie Kelly requested \$1000.00 for new rugs for all kindergarten classrooms.
4. Julie Kelly requested \$450.00 for dress-up clothes (imaginative play) for all kindergarten classrooms.
5. Mary Cavanaugh requested \$3000.00 to fortify the leveled and take-home book libraries of 3 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms.
6. Deb Breister requested \$500.00 to purchase stencils and paints for a United States map to be rendered on the blacktop playground in the spring. A similar painting can be seen on the blacktop at Richardson Elementary.

**NEXT PTO MEETING: 11/10/07 6:30PM - 8:00PM**