

Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School PTO Minutes
September 14, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Present: Carollina Song, Alanna Sullivan, Tom Sindelar, Barbara Bernard, Gail Durckel, Peter Barber, Amy Felton, Kim Allgood, Beth Powers, Jill Sapoznick, Donna Myers, Rosemary Hall, Cathy Knickrehm, Kathy Moriarty, Toyin Adeyemi, Sanford Greenberg, Erica Childress, Jason Gold, Mary Pat Mauro, Carrie Tran, Cynthia Bianchi, Adrienne Baker, and Gregg Simon

Time: **7:05**

Item: Meeting was called at 7:05 P.M.

7:05-7:09 - **Welcome**

The meeting was chaired by Alanna Sullivan and Carollina Song
Introductions of Executive, District 97 Board President Peter Barber

7:10-7:17 **Treasurer's Report by Barbara Bernard**

We ended last fiscal year with \$40,500 and today we have \$95,000 in the bank that is due to the receipt of funds paid for the Starship and pizza lunches; half of the lunch money will be paid to BRAVO in October. Weekly costs are usually \$500 a week; we will have about \$10,000 in profit by the end of the year. This is our last year of the fundraising lunch program. Dues forms changed this year and we have collected \$1800 in dues so far this year. Increase in the sales for the back to school picnic and made \$350 more this year than last year. We made \$1200 on the spirit wear. The amount due for the iPod carts has not yet been paid.

The Brooks PTO operates on as a cash basis organization, which reports in income when it's receive and it's expenses when it's paid. It shows we had \$55,000 in income in September when we really have pre-paid obligations coming down the road.

7:18- 7:30 **Principal's Report**

Mr. Sindelar began by announcing the appointment of the new 6th Grade Assistant Principal, Jason Gold. He thanked everyone for attending and commented on the large size of the crowd.

If you want Mr. Sindelar to discuss a topic please convey it to Alanna or Carollina and he would be happy to prepare a response and presentation.

He thanked Gail Durckel for spearheading a team work exercise.

1st round of MAP assessment was conducted and results should be returned prior to conferences in mid-October. Curriculum night is on September 14, 2011. At Curriculum Night, the School hopes to give parents a good sense of what a typical day is like for the kids at school and give parents an opportunity to meet the teachers.

Brooks has been blocking language arts and social studies classes to help with literacy. They have also blocked science and social studies periods to help with cross-teaching, projects and to foster critical thinking skills.

7:31 – 8:03

Presentation on Classroom Technology - Cao Mac & Elise Fiechtner

Cao Mac thanked the School for inviting the District Technology Team out to present on the status of technology at Brooks. He stated that he District wants to provide more access to computer and handheld technology. Thanks to Brooks PTO for 2 iPod carts which allows the School to have one iPod for each grade level.

Elise Fiechtner, teacher leader for technology at Brooks, helps teachers better utilize the technology at the School. Elise presented how the iPod Touches can be used to enhance curriculum content at school. The District Technology Team will provide the parent community with the applications (apps) that they are

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using at School so the parents have an idea of what apps are being used in the event they want to use them at home. The District Curriculum Coordinator must first review and approve each app to insure all technology fits within the District's core instructional mission. They can then do a mass sync of all iPods and then they will start providing team-based training to the teachers. The iPod touches allow for Response-ware, which allows for the teachers to use a fun interactive way to know if students understand what's being taught. They can also include a generic email account in which they can send work product to the teacher. Elise demonstrated distributed iPod touches and demonstrated two educational apps for everyone.

District 97 Technology Team has created a list of approved technology that they recommend the School purchase. Brooks has 3 iPod carts which contains 30 iPod touches per cart (one iPod cart per grade). One iPod cart was purchased by the district, and two carts were purchased by the PTO.

Usage will be decided by signing up through the Media Center – calendar through the new checkout web system.

In response to questions from parents, Cao said he would distribute through the District website some case studies demonstrating the value and of the iPod touch technology and of technology in general.

8:04 – 8:20: Budget

Carollina Song presented the proposed 2011-2012 budget in Barbara Bernard's absence. See attached draft Budget. Carollina presented a line-by-line detailed presentation of each proposed income and expense.

Note: regarding the lunch fundraisers - Illinois law now prohibits an organization from competing with the School District for lunch sales. The PTO has applied and gotten waivers for the past several years and do not expect to get the waiver next year. Amy Felton motioned to approve the proposed budget, Sanford Greenberg seconded, the motion was unanimously approved.

8:20-8:25 Vice President Reports

Sixth Grade: Kim Allgood, 6th grade pizza dinner on October 5 in the early evening.

Seventh Grade: Beth Powers. No Report

Eighth Grade: Rosemary Hall. No report.

8:25-8:28 - Committee Reports

Fundraising Report – Kim Allgood

6th grade parent social/fundraiser – October 13 at Fitzgerald's Side Bar and it will include a band. Kim will be revamping the Brooks Wear and hopes to have a flyer out by the 6th Grade Pizza Party.

8:28 – 8:29 New Business

Oct. PTO Meeting – 10/18 (ISAT Results, if available)

District 97 Board

Jennifer Reddy has resigned from the Board, effective September 30. No one from Brooks or from one of the Brooks feeder schools is on the school board. At the end of September 2011, the School Board will initiate the process for appointment someone to fulfill Jennifer's term.

8:30 - Adjournment

Kim Allgood moved to adjourn and Amy Felton seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30P.M.