

PTO Regular Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2014

Location: Lunch Room, Cabot School
Time: 8:35 a.m.
Present: Erin Edwards & Vanessa Allen, Co-Presidents; Lisa Adams, Interim Secretary

8:45 a.m. Meeting called to order.

Item I: Events Recap -

- Paint Bar Parents' Night Out- fun event; well-attended; may look at New Art Center next year for similar event.
- Invention Invasion- great event; well-attended. Fun for kids and parents.
- Sneaker Recycling Drive- successful; collected 249 pairs of sneakers for a total of 260 lbs., Sue Bottino drove them to the Nike Outlet to be recycled. Sue and student volunteers will be presenting on Monday evening to Students for a Greener World about the drive. Thanks to fifth graders and other students who volunteered for the drive.
- Newton Serves- successful event this year, despite scheduling on the last day of spring vacation. 15 volunteers cleaned the playground at Cabot, painted, cleaned the library and did other odd jobs around the school. Thanks to all who volunteered!
- Lost & Found- cleanout every 2 weeks is working well. Email reminders to parents will continue.
- Cabot Good Orders- T-shirts arrived; can order T-shirts with new design at Cabot Fair or buy T-shirt with old design. Raised \$1,000 with T-shirt sales. Suggestion to have T-shirts available at Kindergarten play dates- notify K parents in advance that they will be available.
- Spring Fling- great event and exceeded fundraising goal of \$8,000. Raised approximately \$15,000. Everyone had a great time.

Item II: Upcoming Events-

- Taste of the World- Friday, May 16th on Cabot blacktop. Will be held inside if it rains. Please sign up to bring food on Cabot website.

- Cabot Fair- planning has gone extremely well. Will begin to advertise soon with flyers, signs around town and a note in the Tab. Pull up to the blue zone on the designated day (TBD) to have your car windows painted to advertise the fair. Will collect signs the day after this year to minimize loss. Need volunteers to help set up on Friday evening and break down the fair on Saturday. Yard sale items may be dropped off at Cabot between 3-6pm on Friday, May 30th. Will donate yard sale goods that do not sell to Salvation Army truck after the fair and need volunteer to drive over; looking into toy donation- maybe to Cradles and Crayons or Big Brother/Big Sister. Will also have textile, metal and appliance recycling this year.
- Spirit Week- May 27-30, leading up to the Cabot Fair. Each day will be a fun day with a theme for students to build excitement for the fair. Stay tuned for the themes.
- Teacher Appreciation- date change to a Tuesday in early June (TBD). Luncheon in the gym. More information coming soon.
- 5th Grade Graduation- June 19th, 9:30 a.m. Plans are well underway!
- Color Day- June 3rd, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Cabot Field. Sign up to volunteer on line—it's a fun day!

Item III: Open Positions- There are several open PTO positions still. If you are interested in serving as Co-President with Erin and Vanessa, Secretary, Cabot Fair Raffle (2 people), Fifth Grade Social Action, Kindergarten Registration, Safe Routes to School, Understanding our Differences for 3rd & 5th Grade, we would love to have you!

Item IV: Fences- Thank you to those of you who called the City to report about the broken fences. The City has fixed the fences. We appreciate your help!

Item V: Picnics- It's almost time to start planning for end-of-year picnics. This year, the PTO will be buying popsicles for each class to enjoy. Classes will not collect for food—students will bring their own lunches to enjoy on the field with play time. If parents would like to coordinate an activity for a class, they may. Please contact your room parent. Teachers will be setting dates for grade-level picnics.

End of Year Gifts- \$50 or less per classroom. Some suggestions are supplies, books, personalized gift for teacher, donation to Newton Schools Foundation. Ideas for personalized gifts will be posted on the website—if you have any ideas of your own, please let us know and we will add them on.

Item VI: New School- Waiting to start feasibility phase.

Item VII: Technology Update- PTO Council voted on revisions to a new equity policy that will include technology in our schools. The School Committee has made small revisions to the policy and plans to vote on the policy at the next scheduled meeting, May 27th at 7 p.m.

Item VIII: Our last meeting will be in June when we will discuss and vote on our budget for next year.

9:50 a.m. Meeting Adjourned.