

**Galena 5-Star PTO
Board Meeting Minutes (Amended)
Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Beth Osborne at 1:00 pm.

Members present: Tom Brown, Beth Osborne, Kathe Fanelli, Pat Kepke, Lori Martin, Beth Morro, Amy Mellum, Lynette Bell, Sherrie Mims, Stephanie Sherman, Madeline Carpenter, Amy Bottenberg, and Silvia Marin.

Board Minutes of September 23, 2009 were unanimously approved.

School Representatives:

Assistant Principal: Sylvia Marin (Curriculum and Testing) held a session in Spanish at “Bear Essentials”, with 12 families attending. She has also held meetings at Smithridge and Anderson Elementary Schools for our Hispanic population. Her plan is to have one meeting per month near their homes. She spoke at both locations on safety, connect-ed, edline, and saw immediate responses.

She also held a session at “Navigate Galena” for seven freshman parents and two junior/senior parents. She spoke with them about transcripts, credits, etc... Ms. Marin will be checking for a possible liaison for the Pine area. Principal Tom Brown will be taking some graduating Hispanic students to mentor students there.

Principal: Tom Brown presented us with a data sheet – Graduation Cohort – that is being shared with department heads. He will meet with them to go over the data. Can we do something about our undocumented cohort grads? The task is to educate the community and come up with solutions to try and improve among our smaller populations. He wants to tie it into instructional time with formative assessments.

Mr. Brown is conducting walk-through evaluations that give him snapshots of 10-15 minutes for formal feedback to the teachers. Are they informing students what they will be learning? He shared with us the new forms he is using in evaluations, incorporating information from students.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Pat Kepke – Report was given and the board and its members unanimously accepted it to be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Academics: Rep for Kate Price – Prep ACT was last night and 10 students attended. The SAT prep is in November.

Achievement: Beth Morro – The Fall Academic Awards Ceremony went well. We received good responses from parents and had a good group of scholars this year! Communication needs to improve for parents/students about the differences between the fall and spring awards programs. There is leftover ice cream that needs to be used—maybe in November?

Activities: Kathe Fanelli – Craft Fair was successful and we raised about \$3500 for the PTO Scholarship Fund. The majority of feedback was positive. It was good pleasant atmosphere. Many requested it be multiple days—maybe Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday. We really appreciated the student involvement and most of the crafters were happy. Great adult volunteers! The goal was to give back to the community and we received very positive responses to the no-admission fee and low cost table rentals. We need to set a date for next year so the new committee can begin to plan in January for fall of 2010. More committee members are needed to help in the planning.

Arts: Amy Mellum – reported that the band's *Performance of Champions* went well. They had 6 judges and Karen Roiter did an exceptional job announcing. The band made money for instruments, travel expenses, etc... They appreciated the many volunteers. It was fun and the weather was great, but they would like to see things made easier on the bank director, who takes so much upon himself.

The choir's Spaghetti Feed went well.

The drama production went well, with Freshmen like Blake Feldman bringing additional talent!

Orchestra has a dinner and concert on Wed, Oct 28. They will be serving baked potatoes and clam chowder in the cafeteria before moving into the small gym at 7 pm for the concert and silent auction. There is a \$5 admission fee.

Athletics: All – Congratulations to our tennis doubles Lindy Deller and Emily McClintock for making it to State.

Membership: Kathe Fanelli – Membership is drawing to a close. Numbers are low, considering how many enrolled students we have. Our membership directory has gone to print and will be available in November.

Teacher Appreciation: Stephanie Sherman – An evening is planned to assemble the gifts for the teachers for November and December. All are invited to help. The committee will start planning for the annual Soup Lunch in January.

Old Business:

- The official kick-off for the “No Fundraiser, Fundraiser” will be in November, with a flyer in the *Grizzly's Growl*. We plan to do a mailing

to PTO members by the second week in the month. Last year, we made \$19,000 and \$20,000 the year before.

- Lori Martin reported her research on the Scripps Program. It was agreed that it is something we do not wish to act on. She also reported on Scholaris' Friendship Fund from which we receive a token amount. It was agreed to further promote this fundraising activity by advertising Galena's Code: 2391.
- "Parents on Patrol" needs volunteers to help support and keep the students safe on campus. See Ms. Parks for more information.
- Project Safety – The emergency kits were completed for each of our classrooms and staff areas. Our goal this year is to provide blankets for approximately 110 classrooms. We are looking for donations, possibly from hotels or casinos.

New Business:

- There will be "Navigating Galena" sessions in the coming month.
- Beth Osborne asked for feedback on forming a committee/task force for "Parents Against Substance Abuse". The Board unanimously voted to go ahead with the idea. Anyone interested should let Beth know and check out the web site jointogther.com. The focus would be on educating Galena parents on the biggest threats to our kids—drinking, marijuana, and prescription drug abuse.
- The annual PTO Christmas Project is scheduled for the Wednesday before school gets out for the holiday break. It will be scaled down a bit to help out only the neediest students. We will get a break down of siblings' ages, so we have an idea of the kinds of gifts to solicit.
- Pat Kepke introduced the idea of coming up with ways to raise additional funds for Senior Scholarships, like a fashion show. It was discussed that maybe we scale back the amount of money designated for scholarships.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Next PTO meeting - November 18 at 6:30pm in the Conference Room.

Submitted by Sherrie Mims, Secretary
Amended by Beth Osborne, President