SMPTO Meeting

November 8, 2012

Iron Forge Educational Center Library

Meeting Time from approximately 7:05 p.m. until 8:15 p.m.

**I. Call to Order Welcome by Elizabeth Meikrantz, Interim President**

Both principals were present. All board members were present. Miss Strawley , Iron Forge Educational Center Representative and Miss Kuhn and Mrs. Trostle, Rice Representatives were present, along with nine parents.

Elizabeth explained that with Susan Ritter stepping down as president, due to a move from the district, Elizabeth, would assume Susan’s position and Stacey and Shawn Knavel would assume Elizabeth’s position as Co-Vice President of Rice. These are interim positions that will be addressed during the election of officers in the Spring of 2013. In addition, the adjustments/appointments of interim positions are also within the confines of SMPTO’s by-laws.

**II. Principal Reports**

Mr. Boley, Principal, Rice Elementary

Mr. Boley reported that Rice is leading up to the Thanksgiving break by holding parent/teacher conferences the week before the break. On November 8th and 9th, the 3rd graders are doing Colonial Days sponsored by the Cumberland County Historical Society. In addition, the Cumberland County Historical Society is hosting a “Trunk Show” for 1st grade. Frank Little Bear will be meeting with the 2nd graders on November 15th and 16th. On December 7th, 1st and 2nd grade will take a field trip to the Whitaker Center to see the “Nutcracker”. Rice received a grant which allowed for those students to attend a special performance of this event. The fall Scholastic Book Fair/Spirit Gear sale will be held in the Library and will open each day that week for sales after school at 3:20 p.m.

A reminder that South Middleton will have make-up days on November 20th and January 21, 2013 due to state of emergency caused by Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Boley explained that because the two missed days of school were due to a state of emergency, the Governor of Pennsylvania would have to waive the requirement for schools to make-up those days. In the event, the governor does not do that the district is on schedule with their required days/make-up days for the school year. Because the high school students go to school one more day than the elementary or junior high students, the cycle day schedule follows the high school students. Therefore, upon return from Thanksgiving break the cycle day will have skipped one day ahead. A reminder will be put in the Rice Reporter/newsletter of this cycle day change.

With the addition of Mrs. Garland as the new music teacher this year, the traditional holiday program will be moved to the Spring of 2013. This year the 1st graders will participate in the program. The program will return to its traditional holiday program in December 2013, with the 3rd graders performing. This allows Mrs. Garland time to settle into her new position.

Mrs. Adams, Principal, Iron Forge Educational Center

Mrs. Adams noted that 4th and 5th grade parent/teacher conferences begin next week, although some teachers have already started to hold conference with parents. The 5th grade students will be taking a field trip to see the Harrisburg Symphony and right before Christmas break will be going to Allenberry for lunch and a performance. The Holiday Band/Chorus Concert will be held December 4, 2012. Mrs. Adams noted this year the band and chorus are comprised of over 100 students!

Mrs. Adams explained the school district is putting together a drug task force. Mrs. Adams noted the drug task force has been created in an effort to address drug issues that arise within the district and the new task force will seek input from the community. The drug task force’s agenda has not yet been determined. Currently, the drug task force is gathering information to see where and what areas of interest would be best addressed.

**III. Open Floor**

Mr. Boley was asked about a long-term substitute position that posted on the district website for a Kindergarten teacher. Mr. Boley explained that the position is for Mrs. Burns who will be out of school due to medical leave during that period of time.

In addition, SMPTO board will be providing a meal to both Rice and Iron Forge teachers during parent/teacher conference week. The meal will be served Monday, November 12th.

**IV. Correspondence**

SMPTO receives thank you letters from the teachers throughout the school year for various things. Currently, the majority of thank you letters have been for the money given to each teacher at the start of the school year and teacher grants that were approved by SMPTO.

**V. Treasurer’s Report**

Jen reported that SMPTO currently has a checking account balance of $48,860.05 and a savings account balance of $15,002.58. The Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale sold approximately $39,000 and SMPTO made roughly half of that amount, $19,000. SMPTO had hoped to make $25,000 like in past years. SMPTO needs to make $16,000 during the spring in order to cover all of the expenses planned for the teachers/students this year. SMPTO speculates that holding a spring candy sale in 2012 and Gertrude Hawk changing its prize incentives may have hindered the success of the fall candy sale. Because Gertrude Hawk did away with their prize trailer and only provided SMPTO with a percentage of sales in return to be used for prizes, $380.00. SMPTO is out money because it covered a prize structure of $450.00 for the candy sale. SMPTO did collect $710.00 in donations from parents not wishing to participate in the candy sale.

Jen reported SMPTO did receive monies this month from both Spirit Gear sales and reimbursement of field trip monies that were already paid. SMPTO spent money on educational grants and buying the Iron Forge Walking Club 10 mile reward badges. In addition, SMPTO purchased popcorn for the schools and Jen was happy to report that the Iron Forge Halloween Party came in under its $1,500 budget.

**VI. Chair Committee Reports**

1. Iron Forge Halloween Party: Coralita reported that of the approximately 312 students enrolled at Iron Forge this year, approximately 294 kids attended this year’s Halloween Party! Coralita noted that some parents have stepped forward to help volunteer/chair the games at the party. Coralita noted everyone found this year’s Haunted Hallway to be very scary!
2. Groovy Movie at Iron Forge: Coralita noted the next Groovy Movie will be “Puss In Boots”. The students voted and that movie beat “The Lorax” by just two votes! The Iron Forge cafeteria holds approximately 200 students at a time and approximately 138 are scheduled to attend the upcoming Groovy Movie. Volunteers are still needed to help with December 7, 2012 Groovy Movie. Parents can sign-up online through SMPTO’s web page.
3. Spirit Gear: Jess noted she would be selling Spirit Gear during the Fall Book Fair the week of November 12th through 16th at Rice in the Library.
4. Box Tops: Meryl noted Box Tops have brought in approximately $2,371 during the month of November. That is down approximately $600 from this time last year. The next Box Top contest to be held after the Christmas break will be “Box Tops Across America”. Students will be asked to have relatives/friends from a distance join in and send box tops. Ideas were discussed about getting the teachers involved and enhancing the spirit of competition among the classes. Miss Kuhn noted that receiving Scholastic Dollars is always a great incentive for her and something she likes to use in her classroom. Jen Varner wanted to know the total number of box tops collected by Mr. Group’s winning class during the last contest.
5. Gertrude Hawk: The candy will be delivered to both Rice and Iron Forge tomorrow morning. Two volunteers at least are needed at Iron Forge and four volunteers at least are needed at Rice. Jen asked one of the parents attending the meeting to draw the names for the door prizes. It should be noted that Alexis L., 3rd grade was the grand prize winner, selling $1,536.25, won a $250.00 Visa gift card. The parent volunteer picked the following names out of the container of names to each receive a $50 Visa gift card: Deborah K, (K); Caleb W, (2nd); Tristan K (1st); Jordyn S (3rd); and Brianna H. (4th).
6. Fundraising: SMPTO, based on feedback from parents, is seeking to avoid doing a candy selling fundraiser in the Spring of 2013. SMPTO board members are following up on Promotion Motion and Race for Education to see about their programs. The issue was raised about SMPTO hosting its own dance/skating/math/reading thon or any other one it thinks to create. A fundraising committee is going to be needed and Elizabeth will follow up having a fundraising meeting to further discuss the idea.
7. Fall Book Fair/Spirit Gear Sale at Rice: Kerrie noted that the book fair will be held in the library this year and students will be given a chance during their library days to preview the fair. Volunteers are still needed to help run this event and sign-ups can be made by visiting SMPTO’s web page.
8. Secret Santa Shop: The coordinators of this year’s Secret Santa Shop are Kim Hiles, Heather Kuffa, Heather Rohrbaugh and Chantelle Voyack. The coordinators will be shopping for the Secret Santa Shop during the afternoon of November 13, 2012. Set-up for the event is scheduled for November 20, 2012. Volunteers are still needed for set-up and for helping out at the event each day. In addition, Chantelle noted the take home notice will ask parents if they are interested in making a small donation to help offset the cost of SMPTO paying for students unable to make payment. Jen verified the budget for Secret Santa Shop is $500.00
9. Breakfast with Santa: Is scheduled for Saturday, December 15, 2012 at Boiling Springs High School. This year, in an effort to help accommodate the children turned away in past years, SMPTO will be having four seating times at the breakfast instead of three. Susan is coordinating the crafts and Kerrie is coordinating the other aspects of the breakfast. Volunteers are still needed. Sign-up through SMPTO’s web page.

**VII. Old Business**

Beth Ann O’Conner is coordinating the “My Favorite’s List” for teachers to complete. The idea behind this list for each teacher participating is to give parents/students gift giving ideas for the teachers. It was asked if Beth Ann would include a section on the form to allow for teacher’s to list a charity to donate towards if they choose.

**VIII. Special Recognition to Our Outgoing/Very Dedicated Pres. Susan Ritter**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be held December 13, 2012 in the IFEC Library. Babysitting provided by the Interact Club.

Meeting minutes pending approval December 13, 2012.

Kerrie Truax

Secretary, SMPTO