

## **SMPTO Monthly Meeting**

**February 7, 2013**

**Iron Forge Educational Center Library**

**Meeting started at approximately 7:00 p.m.**

**and ended at approximately 8:15 p.m.**

### **I. Call to Order/Welcome**

The board, Dr. Sanker, Superintendent, Dr. Withum, Asst. Superintendent, Mr. Merlie, President, School Board, Mrs. Capozzi, Vice-President, School Board, Mrs. Trostle, Teacher Representative, Rice and nine parents were present. Absent were Mrs. Adams, IFEC, Principal due to IFEC Skate Night.

### **II. Principal Reports/School Board Representative**

#### **Mr. Boley, Principal, Rice Elementary & Mrs. Adams, Principal, IFEC**

Mr. Boley reported that Rice is participating in the Jump Rope for Heart program next week on Tues/Wed/Thurs. In addition, the Agriculture Lab will visit the school of February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Boley noted that new changes are being implemented regarding end of day dismissal that are in line with the new safety procedures . Mr. Boley has been working hard to make it a very efficient process for parents. The buses will be required to leave a little earlier than in the past to allow for parents to then be allowed to enter the building to pick-up their kids. Mr. Boley and his staff are looking at having a couple sign-out tables available to expedite the process. Mr. Boley noted this is the first run at this particular safety measure. The buses are being timed and in the end all of the changes are for the safety of the students and staff. Mr. Boley feels the new changes will make it a safer dismissal process. He recognizes this will be a change for the kindergarten parents.

Dr. Sanker stated that she is working with the district transportation office regarding concerns recently expressed over length of certain bus routes. Dr. Sanker noted there are three buses that tend to lag, one of those goes over the mountain. The transportation office is in the process of trying to tweak those bus routes without causing major disruptive changes. In fact, Cathy Ryan and Rick Vensel are riding the buses timing the routes. Dr. Sanker noted it is unusual to tweak bus runs in February but the district is trying to streamline efficiency for picking up kids.

Mr. Boley added that once the plan is in place he will send home communication with the parents outlining the new procedures regarding dismissal. Dr. Sanker noted the issue recently raised at a school board meeting regarding a bus that was late due to riding around Children's Lake a few times was actually due to the parent of the child not being home. The bus could not drop off the child and was making extra efforts to see if the parents had returned home.

With respect to future parent concerns regarding bus issues, Mr. Boley noted parents should contact him. If he is not able to address or answer the question he will forward the information onto the transportation office.

Mr. Boley again stated that after having talked to several people that are involved in the day to handling of transportation he is optimistic that the plan will be successful.

Dr. Sanker was asked about the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) presence at the schools and response to issues at the schools. Dr. Sanker stated that PSP is familiarizing themselves with the buildings and getting accustomed to the layouts of each of the schools. During the recent break-in at Rice, PSP responded very quickly. Dr. Sanker noted all buildings are armed with silent alarms.

A parent asked who is mandating that Yellow Breeches Middle School teachers be present during drop-off duty. The parent was informed that there is a rotating teacher on duty during morning drop-off.

Mr. Merlie noted a new initiative by the district that would allow students graduating from Boiling Springs High School to simultaneously receive an associate degree from Harrisburg Area Community College. The details of that initiative are being worked out. Dr. Sanker feels it is the best deal in town regarding obtaining college credits while in high school at less the cost of more expensive colleges or universities.

**III. Open Floor**

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Jen reported SMPTO has a checking account balance of \$32,110.70 and a savings account balance of \$15,008.24. Last month was a slow month both for receiving and spending money. Received some random orders for spirit gear, issued refunds to board members for Breakfast with Santa purchases, made deposits with 3 Monkeys, vendor for May Fair and dealt with bounced checks from both Breakfast with Santa and Secret Santa shop.

**V. Correspondence**

No correspondence this month.

**VI. Chair/Committee Reports**

- a. Box Tops: Elizabeth thanked Meryl for her hard work. Currently, the Box Tops Across America/World contest is going on. Maps are in each school letting students see the approximately 40 to 50 returns that have been made from various countries. In addition, flyers were sent home for the rock climbing contest at IFEC and the movie contest at Rice. Meryl noted box top collections are down 2,000 from this time last year.

- b. Spirit Gear: Is always available for sale and will be sold during the IFEC book fair.
- c. Groovy Movies: The next Groovy Movie is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students are asked to wear red and they will receive a treat. Additional popcorn was purchased for this event. Mr. Barrick is currently running Pennies for Patients at IFEC. Students will vote for their movie selection with pennies. The pennies will be donated to the fundraiser.
- d. Bubblethon: The decision was made to table the Bubblethon until the fall of 2013.
- e. IFEC Winter Book Fair: Will be held Tues through Thurs after school and into the evening, Friday until after Groovy Movie and each day during lunch periods. SMPTO is excited to offer a book fair selection tailored specifically for the readers at IFEC. The book fair runs Tuesday, February 19, 2013 through Friday, February 22, 2013.
- f. May Fair: Quite a bit of work is left to be done and we are still in need of volunteers. Tara Trostle is covering the ticket booth. Stephanie Kuhn is running the talent show. We are in discussions to have a video or book sale at May Fair. Spirit Gear will be sold and a chair is needed. Mr. Boley reminded dads that a great job is the set-up and tear-down. May Fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

**VII. Old Business**

**VIII. New Business**

SMPTO board elections are in April. Nominations will be made during next month's meeting for the following positions up for re-election: Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President of IFEC.

Elizabeth thanked BethAnn Connors for her work in creating the "Teachers Favorites" wish list to be used by parents when considering a teacher gift.

Tara Trostle noted the Million Minute Reading Challenge has reached 677,000 minutes to date. Students are encouraged to keep reading through the month of April. At the end, all students that participated in this event will receive a reward. Ideas are being considered for either a small gift or a party. The idea is to recognize all of the students that participated in reaching this milestone.

Mr. Boley added that in place of a family art night there will be a gallery walk in the school during parent/teacher conferences March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Boley thinks that all children in the school should have a piece of their art work represented during the gallery walk.

Mr. Merlie was addressed regarding school board members addressing parents in attendance at the meetings regarding the current status of the contract negotiations. Some feel the issue of the teacher contracts is the “big white elephant” in the room. Mr. Merlie noted the fact finders hearing was held on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Each side presented their case to the fact finder. Each side was offered the chance to ask questions and counter issues raised by the opposing side. The fact finder has until February 25<sup>th</sup> to present their report. From there, each side has 10 days to vote on the fact finder’s report. If one of the sides does not agree and a decision cannot be made the issues pertaining to the contract will become public at that time. Teachers need 2/3 of their members to vote. Mr. Merlie is confident that an end to the teacher contract will be reached soon.

In addition, the school board has retained the PA School Board Association to help in the search for a new superintendent. During this first stage of the search, South Middleton is engaging all of its stakeholders (parents and teachers) to issue input. A parent suggested Mr. Boley include that information in the Rice Reporter.

Mr. Merlie was also asked about Governor Corbett's proposed education budget for the 2013/2014 fiscal year and the impact that would have on the district. Mr. Merlie noted the immediate impact to the district would be a 3% increase or approximately \$87,000 the district could possibly receive. Mr. Merlie noted he is cautiously optimistic.

**IX. Open Floor**

**X. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

The next SMPTO meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 14, 2013**, in the IFEC Library. Babysitting provided by Interact Club.

Meeting Minutes pending approval March 14, 2013

Kerrie Truax

Secretary, SMPTO