

Granger Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes  
January 27, 2010

Vice President Ruth Crane called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Mrs. Collins gave her principal's report first.

The February calendar of events includes Beach Day on January 29<sup>th</sup> and a front door bus evacuation drill on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a 5<sup>th</sup> grade party planning meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Due to district cuts in bussing, the fifth grade end of the year party will not be held at Buzzard's Cove Putt Putt and the Red Wing Cabin in Hinckley. Students will walk to Granger Park instead and have activities there. Poet and author Michael Salinger will visit on February 10<sup>th</sup>. He will hold five 45 minute sessions teaching students about writing and the joy of poetry. Valentine parties will be on February 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>. The Talent Show will be February 12<sup>th</sup> at the High School auditorium. Due to bussing cuts, there will not be a morning dress rehearsal performance at the High School. Final dress rehearsal will instead be Thursday evening. Many thanks to Nancy Everett and Jen vonHarten and their committee for their dedication to bringing us a wonderful talent show. No school on February 15<sup>th</sup>, Presidents' Day. On Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a Mother/Son fun night at the ice skating rink in Strongsville. Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> is the next PTO meeting, and on Friday February 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a Father/daughter dance in the cafeteria and gym at Granger.

Mrs. Collins then discussed some of the staff changes that occurred as a result of budget cuts by the district. Mrs. Major is no longer working as an office aide. Donna Waddle will be the office aide and Judy Smith will fill in for her after 2:00. Guidance counselor John Mancuso has been let go. Moriah Ice will return as elementary guidance counselor. Sheilah Wilson, one of the playground aides was also let go. These cuts and changes were based on seniority of the aides. The staff that was cut is on a call back list and the substitute list. Building budgets have also been reduced. Mrs. Collins will approach the PTO as needed for help.

Kindergarten registration will be March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Middle School. Due to budget cuts, screening will not take place at registration. A language survey and nurse screenings will be done after the school year begins, and kindergarten readiness and literacy tests will be done at orientation. Safety Week will still be available for incoming Kindergarten students. Since all bussing for field trips has been cut, the kindergarten students will not be going to the zoo on the last day of school. The PTO must be aware of that for their preparations for the End of the Year Carnival on the last day of school. The Carnival will still take place since this is a PTO sponsored event. Mrs. Collins also reported that there will not be a Spelling Bee this year. This is due to the greater emphasis here at Granger to language skills rather than rote spelling.

A short discussion was then held on the comments and concerns raised at the previous night's Board of Education meeting.

Ruth Crane then gave the Vice President's report.

The Mother/Son Ice Skating will be at Hoover Arena in Strongsville, just off of Rt 71 at Rt 82. The reduced rate is \$4 admission and \$2 for skate rental. There is no pre-sale of tickets. When arriving, just tell them you are from Granger.

The Father/daughter dance will be from 6:30 to 8:30 here at the school on February 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be a DJ. More info will be coming home with the students.

We are trying to plan a Granger Elementary day at an Aeros game sometime in May.

Kidstuff Coupons Books- We sold 113 books and made \$1430. Thank you to the teachers for their help with this fundraiser.

We are investigating other fundraising opportunities for next year, anticipating a greater need for monies to support school projects and events. A Carnival, Walk-a-thon, or penny drive are some possibilities. If you have any ideas, please contact Karen Howard or Ruth Crane.

Michelle Schafer then gave the Treasurer's Report.

Michelle reported the income for this month which included the Kidstuff income, Market Day income, Boxtops, GFS, Santa Breakfast, and Holiday Shop. Reporting on the magazine fundraiser, Michelle stated that we have made about \$6000 so far. This is the majority of the proceeds from the sale, though we may continue to get a few small checks as orders are processed. Income overall is down from the projected amounts on the budget. Granger is now listed at Staples, so mention that if you make purchases there.

Ann Petersen gave the Volunteer Coordinator's Report.

The Santa Breakfast went really well with 225 attendees. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at this event. The PTO made about \$199.

COSI on Wheels- More volunteers are needed for this event on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Morning and/or afternoon shifts are available. Instructions for manning an activity station will be given by the COSI staff person. Contact Kerri Landsness at 330-598-1487.

Thank you to Ryan and Michelle Phillips for donating 4 air pots for PTO use. They will be stored in the staff lounge closet for future use.

Ann also talked about the revised guidelines for committee chairpersons. Please follow the guidelines in your binder. These are meant to assist you in running your event or activity, tracking costs and/or supplies, and adhering to the PTO bylaws. Chairpersons also need to fill out an After Project Report. Copies of the after Project Reports are to be turned in to the Vice President and the Treasurer. A copy should also be put into your binder. The Volunteer Coordinators will now be in charge of keeping the binders, so committee chairs should return them at the end of their event or activity unless they plan to chair the event next year.

Since the playground aide position was cut by the district, additional volunteers are needed on the playground. When there is indoor recess due to the cold, additional volunteer help is also needed to help monitor the classrooms on all the floors. Please contact Ann or Erika if you can help.

Stacy Tessena gave the Teacher's Representative report.

Teachers ask that parents driving students to school in the morning please remember that the drop off time is 8:45. Teachers are not required to be in the classrooms until that time, which may mean some students are unattended if dropped off early. Michelle Cottrell will also put this reminder in the newsletter along with a review of the drop off route and procedure.

Standing Committee Reports:

Talent Show- Nancy Everett gave an update on the Talent Show proceedings. A Chairperson is needed to take over for next year. Jen vonHarten has agreed to help the new chairperson. Please contact Nancy if you are interested. Since bussing is cut, the students will no longer see a Friday morning performance. Parents are urged to take their children to see the talent show Friday

evening. If that is not possible, DVDs of the show will be available to watch during indoor recess. Nancy will purchase these extra DVDs using her budgeted funds.

Beach Day- Beach Day is Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup> during lunch recess. Contact Ellie Skidmore if you can help.

Rebates- Continue to save boxtops and labels. Every little bit helps in raising funds for PTO use. Encourage relatives, neighbors and friends to save labels and boxtops for us, too.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Next PTO meeting is Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.