

Minutes of the March 9th, 2009 PTA Meeting

Tesago Elementary School Shenendehowa Central School District

The meeting commenced at 7:06pm in the Tesago library and the following people were in attendance:

Julie Plumadore	Greg Pace	Cathie Smith	Susan Flint	April Douglas	Beth Silaika
Julie Nelson	Samantha Yattaw	Darlene Kern	Chris Meagher	Amy Quinlivan	Margaret Matocha
Dana Bass	Stephanie Reilly Dobo	Fran Matson	Debora Clark	Tony Morelli	Jill Van Dusen
Sharon Bowles	Margarita Zacher	Wendy Page			

Items discussed:

<p>Sharon Bowles <i>Board of Education</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Quest – Young Scholars Program</u> – The board is hearing a proposal to bring this program back into the district for the 2009-2010 year instead of having it outside at BOCES. It would be developed to enrich the existing curriculum and would not be budget dependant. • <u>Mid-Year Goals</u> – These are now on the district web site. • <u>Budget</u> – The board is working hard on the budget. They still don't know how much state aid we will be receiving. They are looking to restructure and become more efficient while preserving our great programs. The public budget hearings will be held soon. • <u>Board Meetings</u> – These are now being video streamed and archived for a short time on the web site.
<p>Julie Plumadore <i>Co-President</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Letters to Politicians</u> - Attached is an example letter that people can use if they would like to contact their representatives in Albany regarding the school budget money. Our district could loss up to 8.3 million so this is a very important issue. • <u>Community Conversation</u> – Dr. Robinson will be holding this on Saturday March 14th at 9:30 at Acadia. • <u>PTA Presidents Meeting</u> – At the last presidents meeting a new allergy protocol was discussed. They are hoping to roll it out for next year. Julie will send out more information about this as she receives it. • <u>Almost March Madness</u> – The DVD is still on sale until March 13th. • <u>PTA Honorary Life Members</u> – This year's winners are Kim Morse, Donna DeSimone, Wanda Oser and Michael Lotano. Their awards will be presented at the Founders Day dinner on April 6th at Michael's banquet hall. All are welcome and the cost is \$28 to attend. • <u>Special Education</u> – There will be a special education meeting tomorrow (March 10th) at Gowana library. • <u>5th Grade Moving Up</u> – It was proposed that the 4th grade families put on the ceremony, prepare the food etc... for the 5th grade moving up event. Some felt that it would be difficult to generate enough interest within the 4th grade parents; others thought that the 4th grade parents should run the ceremony but that the food should still come from the 5th grade parents. If you have any thoughts or ideas please send them to Julie. Julie met with the 5th grade parents recently and it was determined that they do not need an increase in their budget. We do have DARE as a budget item but there is not any money in it. Julie is working to determine how much we may need. We will probably vote on this at the April meeting. • <u>PTA Positions for Next Year</u> – Please let Julie know if you are interested in a position in the PTA for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

<p>Cathie Smith <i>VP of Academics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Kindergarten Orientation</u> - We are looking for volunteers to help with this event on May 20th. We need parents as well as 4th and 5th graders to give tours of the school. • <u>Newsletter</u> – Submissions for April are due on March 20th. The “help wanted” ads for PTA committee positions will be included soon. We can always use extra help please let us know if you are interested • <u>Scholarship</u> – We did not receive many applications this year. The winners will be announced soon. • <u>PARP</u> – (Fran Matson) The Battle of the Books will be held on March 26th in the evening. Instead of each child getting their own book at the end of PARP, this year each classroom will receive a collection of books. This way many children can enjoy them. The teachers will work with PARP volunteers to create the collections. More money is needed in order to create these classroom book collections. We did not use all of the book fair budget money this year so we discussed taking some money from there. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>MOTION ONE</u> – Julie proposed that we increase the PARP budget by \$200. Margaret Matocha seconded the motion. The MOTION PASSED. ○ <u>MOTION TWO</u> – Julie proposed that we transfer \$100 from the book fair budget to the PARP budget. Margaret Matocha seconded the motion. The MOTION PASSED. • <u>Arts in Education</u> – (Stephanie Reilly Dobo) The Lake George Opera came to the school and it was a great show. The Kindergarteners will be involved in a Build a Bug presentation by Ecoline. The 2nd and 3rd graders will be visited by the Scotia/Glenville Museum for a program on sound and the weather. K-3rd will be visited by author Gail Gibbons on April 23rd. There will be a program by TWO: High Energy Juggling on April 29th.
<p>Greg Pace <i>Principal</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>March Madness</u> – Great event, everything went really well with this event. • <u>Illness</u> – There has been a lot of sickness in the school lately with a wide variety of symptoms. • <u>Testing</u> – The make-up math tests are being worked on. • <u>Paperless</u> - The school is striving to go almost paperless by April 1st. A letter will be coming home soon. E-mails will tell parents to check the web site when something new is posted. • <u>12 Minutes a Day</u> – This exercise in the classrooms is going well. One class has been doing Richard Simmons tapes. They reached out to Richard Simmons and he has contacted them back via e-mail. • <u>1000 Book Club</u> - This program is a huge success. The book bags are constantly coming and going from the building.
<p>Julie Plumadore for Beth Hart <i>VP Non-Academics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Spring Carnival</u> - This will be held on April 3rd. We are still looking for volunteers so please contact Beth or Julie if you can help out. • <u>Movie Night</u> – This is March 20th and we will be showing Madagascar 2. • <u>Spring Fundraiser</u> – This year we will be doing a Silver Graphics fundraiser. Information will be coming home later this week. • <u>Campbells Labels</u> – (Vida Wray) We are sending in 3,000 points. Great job everyone! • <u>Box Tops</u> – (Margaret Matocha) We broke \$2,000 for the year! Sign up at the Box Top web site for a chance to win 10,000 extra tops. Keep sending them in! • <u>Staff Appreciation Week</u> – (Wendy Page) We will be honoring our teachers during the week of May 4th – 8th. There will be an initial planning meeting to get some ideas on March 18th at 7:30. Please come if you can. We are looking for good theme ideas. Please contact Wendy if you can help.

Tony Morelli <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We just brought in \$6,000 on discovery. We are doing great overall this year, please see the attached budget summary.
Darlene Kern <i>TPT</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>School Data</u> – This group is looking at generic test scores, report card data etc... to look at trends and student performance at Tesago. It will all be based on group scores, not individuals. • <u>Web site</u> – They are also looking at ways to improve or make additions to the web site.
OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next PTA meeting is April 9th which is a Thursday • If you have any new ideas for the sportswear please contact April Douglas

The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Flint
 Tesago PTA Secretary

Tesago Elementary PTA
Treasurers Report
For the period July 1, 2008 to March 9, 2009

	Budget Amount	Actual Amount	Budget Variance Over/(Under)
REVENUE			
Fundraisers:			
Fundraiser #1	\$4,000 00	\$8,155 66	\$4,156
Fundraiser #2	\$4,000 00	\$0 00	\$(4,000)
Holiday Extravaganza	\$500.00	\$1,766.40	\$1,266
<i>Subtotal Fundraisers</i>	\$8,500.00	\$9,922.06	\$1,422
Contributions	\$1,000 00	\$701 00	\$(299)
Other Revenue Producing Activities:			
BBQ - School Picnic	\$200 00	-\$46 70	\$(247)
Box Tops	\$1,000 00	\$1,129 07	\$129
Ice Cream Social	\$300 00	\$0 00	\$(300)
Membership	\$750 00	\$863 50	\$114
Movie Night	\$500 00	\$183 37	\$(317)
Pictures	\$1,800 00	\$1,794 00	\$(6)
School Supplies	\$0 00	-\$1,789 68	\$(1,790)
Spring Fling - Carnival	\$1,500 00	-\$433 00	\$(1,933)
Sportswear Sale	\$300 00	\$892 20	\$592
Target Rewards	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$-
<i>Subtotal Other Revenue</i>	\$6,350.00	\$2,592.76	\$(3,757)
TOTAL REVENUE (Net)	\$15,850.00	→ \$13,215.82	\$(2,634)

EXPENSES			
Programs:			
Arts in Education	\$15,000 00	\$3,497 62	\$(11,502)
Birthday Board / Ice cream	\$180 00	\$96 63	\$(83)
Bowling	\$0 00	\$0 00	\$-
DARE	\$0 00	\$0.00	\$-
Discovery Program	\$0 00	-\$6,427.09	\$(6,427)
Drama Club	\$300 00	\$0 00	\$(300)
End of Year Picnic	\$500 00	\$0 00	\$(500)
Fall Family Fun Night	\$0 00	-\$1,417 06	\$(1,417)
Field Days	\$100 00	\$0 00	\$(100)
Fifth grade activities	\$100 00	\$0 00	\$(100)
Fifth Grade moving up gift	\$750 00	\$0 00	\$(750)
Founders Day Dinner	\$160 00	\$0 00	\$(160)
Hospitality and Promotion and Goodwill	\$400 00	\$0 00	\$(400)
Community Service	\$0 00	\$0.00	\$-
Kindergarten Orientation	\$50 00	\$0.00	\$(50)
Legos	\$500 00	\$1,316.74	\$817
Lifetime Achievement	\$220 00	-\$275.00	\$55
March Madness	\$0 00	\$0.00	\$-
PARP	200 + \$700 00	-\$300.54	\$(399)
Principals Discretionary Fund	\$200 00	\$0 00	\$(200)
Prior Year Expenses	\$0 00	\$904 09	\$904
Reflections	\$200 00	\$0 00	\$(200)
Scholarship Award	\$1,500 00	\$1,500 00	\$-
Shen Inventors	\$200 00	\$0 00	\$(200)
Staff Appreciation	\$350 00	\$0 00	\$(350)
Sunshine Club	\$100 00	\$0 00	\$(100)
Teachers Fund - Book Fair	\$100 00	\$0 00	\$(100)
Teachers Fund - Other	\$825 00	\$25 00	\$-
1000 Book Club	\$200 00	\$20 50	\$(180)
Contingency Fund	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$(1,000)
<i>Subtotal Program Expense</i>	\$23,635.00	\$91.97	\$(23,543)
Administrative:			
Insurance	\$235 00	\$0 00	\$(235)
PTA Administrative Expenses	\$450 00	\$112.00	\$(338)
PTA Council Assessments	\$300 00	\$300 00	\$-
PTA Meetings	\$500 00	\$0 00	\$(500)
PTA Supplies	\$250 00	\$253.92	\$4
<i>Subtotal Administrative Expense</i>	\$1,735.00	\$665.92	\$(1,069)
TOTAL EXPENSES (Net)	\$25,370.00	\$757.89	\$(24,612)

Ending cash balance

Cash Balance Summary	
Beginning Balance @ July 1, 2008	\$19,951 23
Total Revenue for the period (net)	\$14,101 32
Total Expenses for the period (net)	\$1,314.39
<i>Ending Cash Balance</i>	\$32,738.16

Membership Summary	
TESAGO Membership Revenue	\$863 50
NYS PTA portion of dues collected	\$885 50
NYS PTA portion of dues remitted	\$556.50
<i>Total Membership Revenue</i>	\$1,192.50

Dear PTA Presidents

I am attending the **2009 NYS PTA Legislative/Education Conference** in Albany this weekend. There I have received "hot off the press" materials pertaining to March Advocacy month and New York State PTA Virtual Lobby Day, March 18, 2009. I look forward to sharing what I have learned at the next council meeting on March 9th.

Attached I have provided you with copy to send to your parents to inform them about March Advocacy month and Virtual Lobby Day. I am putting this in Arongen's monthly newsletter for the month of March, I am sending it out electronically and will post to our PTA Bulletin Board. The NYS PTA website, www.nyspta.org has additional ideas on how to get your members involved.

March is PTA Advocacy Month

"Advocacy is at the heart of PTA's mission and vision. Taking action provides both parents and PTA leaders with the resources to become more involved with their community at home and their community across the nation." Excerpted from National PTA website: http://www.pta.org/take_action.asp

Our Children need your help

Governor Paterson's proposed 2009-10 Executive Budget contains some provisions that support sound educational initiatives and others that are of concern. A budget summary is available as the February edition of Legislative Briefs. Go to: www.nyspta.org

NYS PTA is mounting a campaign to address two critical issues:

Budget and Caps and Safeguarding Mandates

We are asking every PTA member to participate in our legislative campaign. The campaign is two-fold: a letter/postcard writing initiative and a Virtual Lobby Day using Cap Wiz.

How You Can Participate

Starting immediately, write letters and/or postcards to the Governor and your representatives in Albany. Go to <http://nyspta.org/advocacy/lobbyday.cfm> for sample letters and postcards, or create your own using the issue briefs. Letters should be sent to all listed under the Virtual Lobby Day Contact List, and your local area representatives.

VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY: MARCH 18TH

On this day we ask all PTA members to call, email and/or fax their legislators. Tell them:

- You want to safeguard mandates
- You have concerns about the budget and property tax caps. Alternative measures that will provide needed property tax relief AND preserve the quality of our schools and communities must be examined!

Dear NAME OF POLITICIAN,

As a concerned parent, taxpayer and voter from the Shenendehowa Central School District, I am writing to encourage you to please help preserve a quality education for our children. As you and your colleagues deliberate on the state budget and the use of the federal stimulus funds, please know that without a reinstatement of the Deficit Reduction Assessment dollars **Shenendehowa will lose \$4.8 million** and by freezing the Save Harmless statutory increase in state aid of 3% **Shenendehowa will lose \$3.5 million. That it is a total impact of \$8.3 million** which will be devastating to our program offerings, force cuts in staff and cause a significant increase in property taxes. Please use the federal funds to eliminate the Deficit Reduction Assessment and to preserve the state aid increase that was promised as a part of the legislation adopted last year.

I know that the district's administration and Board of Education is working hard to restructure and contain costs. In fact, Shenendehowa has always been a very cost-conservative district, having the 4th lowest expenditure per pupil out of 22 component school districts in the Capital Region BOCES and the 14th lowest expenditure per pupil out of 45 school districts within the Capital Region and Questar BOCES. The district has been working hard to do its part and now we need your help.

Without your support, our school district will be compelled to make massive cuts that will not be good for our students academically or our community economically.

NAME OF POLITICIAN, we need you to help us preserve a quality future for our children, sustain a viable economy in this region, and avoid major increases in property taxes. We all know the road ahead will be challenging, but these are the times when true leaders step up to the plate. So, thanks for your leadership during these challenging times.

A Supportive Parent and Voter,

YOUR NAME

Governor David Paterson
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

518-474-8390

Emails are required to be submitted through an online form (link provided below).
<http://www.ny.gov/governor/contact/index.html>

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