

**Galway PTA
Meeting Minutes
As Of October 5, 2005**

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CALL TO ORDER at 7:02 p.m. by the PTA President Debbie VanDemark

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The May 2005 minutes were approved as distributed without corrections, on a motion by Susan Payton.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Debbie noted that the PTA membership at the second Back To School Night, had approved the nomination of Joyce Philip as Recording Secretary.

Budget for the 2005/2006 school year, which was approved at the Back to School night, was distributed.

President also circulated the list of committee chairs to confirm that the information presented was correct.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Ms. Ffolkes stated that student enrollement is at 710, which is higher than the previous projection of 669. An additional portable has been installed which brings the number to 11. The school has an extra ½ time teacher for Math.

The Asst. Principal, Mr. Renke, has taken over supervision of the parking lot pick up and drop off area. Ms. Ffolkes has also asked the Education Field Officer, to assist with general safety concerns as well as parking lot procedures. This presents a challenge since he is also responsible for Briggs Chaney and Paint Branch.

Galway Renovation - There was no new information on the school renovation. The move date is still June 2007.

The National Gallery of Art has a new project "Project Quality Time" running from 11/12/2005 – 12/03/2005. It is meant to help foster improved communication between parents and children in the area of art.

Ms. Ffolkes introduced staff in attendance at the meeting.

ASST. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Renke could use more parents assistance in the parking lot at dismissal time. Parking lot rules will be put on a flyer. Three staff cars were vandalized recently. Police will put school on their pm run.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nina stated that the PTA is relying on Sally Foster sales to meet the \$28,000 budget. She thanked the teachers for starting to submit their Start Up invoices early, the deadline is 10/31/05. The Ways & Means committee will extend the Sally Foster sales to 10/14/05.

A recommendation was made that the committee chairs not accept checks due to the costs related to returned checks. Ways & Means committee will provide a list of bounced checks prior to Sally Foster distributions. A suggestion was made to include the child's name and teachers name

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on all checks presented with an order. Sally Foster orders can also be processed on line, and the items are received in approximately 4 days.

Membership: PTA Membership is at 130 with an additional 5 received at this meeting. This is well below the membership count of 240 from last year. A suggestion was made to put up a membership table at the Sally foster pick up night as well as at some of the other Ways & Means events other events.

Newsletter - Susan Payton will try to send out notification of the newsletter publishing dates in advance. Items for the October newsletter should be submitted by the Friday before the publishing date. A condensed version of the parking lot safety rules can be included. A suggestion was made that fieldtrip dates should be provided well in advance of the date.

MCCPTA DELEGATES REPORT: MCCPTA is in the process of determining priorities for the current year. Bullying has been the main topic. Next meeting is on October 25th, at 7:30 in the Carver auditorium.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ways & Means: Neither chairperson was present; therefore, Co-President, Gina presented the report. The Sally Foster order deadline has been extended to October 14th Receipts to-date were \$2,100 by internet and \$5,300 regular order. There has been a problem with Sally Foster online orders attempted through AOL. A note on online orders will be included in the newsletter.

Spring Book Fair: Peggy McGovern stated that the Book Fair will be on the coming Monday and Tuesday, and teachers need to sign up if they have not already done so. Book orders will be put in on Wednesday. A volunteers sign up sheet was circulated since more volunteers were needed. Reminder that only cash and credit cards will be accepted for book orders. Peggy also explained that students will come to the book fair on Monday/Tuesday and fill out the book order form with their wish list. The forms will be sent home for parents to make the final decision.

Sock Hop: The Sock Hop is scheduled for October 28th. Flyers will go out next Friday. The charge is \$2.

N.E. Consortium: Laurie attended the monthly meetings during the summer and will continue to do so during the new school year. Most discussions have focused on high school issues, the need for bi-lingual staff, and Algebra to be offered in Middle Schools. At the most recent meeting the focus of the discussion was the Blake incident.

Yearbook: The yearbook contract was signed in June.

Hands on Science: Three classes scheduled: 10/12 and two on 10/20/05.

OLD BUSINESS:

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None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Galway PTA ByLaws were presented for approval. The President noted that the PTA needed to have the ByLaws on file with MCCPTA in order to be able to apply for certain grants. One of the updates to the ByLaws related to having 2 presidents; therefore, the co-president had to be an executive Vice President. The ByLaws were approved unanimously on a motion made by George Herrfurth..

Audit of 2004 and 2005 financials to be presented at the November meeting after review by the Board.

Funding for New Musical Instruments - Mr. Liddle's request for funds for musical instruments was presented. Since Mr. Liddle is also seeking grants a suggestion was made that \$600 be provided to Mr. Riddle. A motion to fund \$600 of the requested amount was made by Cammie Reid and unanimously approved.

Bee Demonstration for 3rd Graders - Gina is aware of an individual who could provide a bee demonstration to the 3rd Graders; however, some compensation would be needed. A suggestion was made that the same demonstration could be obtained from the Montgomery County Beekeepers association located at Brookside Gardens. Also the 3rd Graders have a planned trip to Brookside Gardens.

The President read a letter from the ESOL team requesting funding for instructional material. The decision was made that the ESOL teachers needed to consult to determine their specific need. Also it is possible that the funding could be obtained from the Grade level funds.

School Web site - New media staff - Mrs. Lucy Mulhern is taking over responsibility for the web-site. Nina stated an interest in working with that individual.

Alternative Fund Raising Options: For the next meeting, the Ways & Means committee should come up with possible alternatives to Sally Foster. Sally Foster returns 50% of sales, other fund raisers do not return as much. Some suggestions were; sale of Spirit T-shirts, McDonald's night; Grocery store receipts; yard sales; carnival. Mrs. Carlson noted that the W&M did not tap into teachers who did not have classrooms.

Next PTA meeting will be on November 2nd, which is the same day as the Sally Foster delivery.

ADJOURNEMENT: Moved by Kiran Talsania at 8:10, and passed unanimously.