

Galway PTA  
Minutes of the October 3, 2006 Meeting

**DRAFT**

Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you for your dedication to our students and school by being here and by giving your time to our many projects.

**Call to Order** at 8:05 by co-president Debbie VanDemark

Introductions - Attendees introduced themselves

**Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the last full meeting (May 2006) were approved as presented on a motion by Lee Slezak.

**President's Report:** Modernization meeting is on October 11 at 7:00 p.m. It is the final presentation and last chance to make changes. Thanks to parents who helped with Back to School Night. Next PTA meeting will be on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. Please note that the budget was submitted for approval at the September meeting held at the Back to School nights.

**Principal's Report:** School is off to a great start. Discipline policy is in place and office referrals are down. The Peace Day program and incentives are being used to foster less office referrals. Morning announcements are made of classes without referrals. In class 3D Reading testing is over. Math tests for Gr 3-5

Halloween parade and party scheduled for 10/31 rain or shine. Parties will begin at 2:30. Alternative activities will be held in the media center. Blue Notes will include prohibitions on certain Halloween costumes.

Connect Ed – mass phone tool has been used and will be used next on Oct 11 to inform parents of the last modernization meeting.

A fifth 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade teacher has been allocated. Interviews are in process, and the teacher will start the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period. Working with school superintendent to determine how to reallocate the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students

School Calendar reminders:

10/9 – parent/relative visitation day (10:00 – 12 & 1:00 – 3:00)

10/20 – No School

10/25 - Principal coffee at 8:00 a.m.

10/31 – end of the 1st marking period

**Asst. Principal's Report:** Technology modernization was completed over the summer. In response to a question on the parking lot, Mr. Reinke said that parents are getting back into the routine and it has been smooth.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Laurie/Cathryn presented the Treasurer's report. The budget assumes \$12,000 from fundraising efforts. Debbie will address the concern that support staff did not get fundraiser envelopes.

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Cathryn provided guidelines for handling income. She asked that she be informed (call/email) if a deposit is left in the PTA Treasurer's box. Reminder: **Do Not Leave Cash in the Treasurer's Box.**

**Committee Reports:**

Ways & Means – Update on the Cherrydale orders to-date was provided via the Agenda. As of Monday there were about \$5,500 in sales and \$120 in direct donations, which is at 25% of the goal. Six students have already earned the Limo Lunch (awarded for sales of 35 and up. In K-2 Ms. Lavo's class is in the lead followed by Riddick. In grades 3-5 Ms. Burd's class is in the lead.

Book Fair – will be Nov 14-17. Teachers will be provided with sign up sheets by end of Oct. Set up and teacher preview will be on Nov 13. Volunteers are needed, contact Peggi McGovern at [mcgovernpeggi@hotmail.com](mailto:mcgovernpeggi@hotmail.com) or 301-890-1062

Communication – PTA website is being updated. Information on the website has been circulated. Plan to post more information and links. She is working to incorporate all of the suggestions provided.

The newsletter will be issued one week after each PTA meeting. Information should be sent to Kim.

Blue Feedback cards from the County distributed at the meeting are available in 5 languages. County is seeking feedback on the MCPS website.

Cultural Arts – Meeting with the Principal to discuss specifics for 2006-2007 assemblies. Number of assemblies will depend on the Cherrydale returns. Also applying for \$300 – 500 grant to the Washington Post.

Grocery Program Reminder to sign up, forms were available at the PTA meeting and also possible to register on-line for Giant & Safeway program. Any School receipts from Safeway should be dropped off in the PTA box or can be submitted on-line.

Handbook - Please inform Debbie if any comments or suggestions for additions to the content, and help in proofing. Comments are needed this week. Goal is to get it out in a few weeks.

Membership – approximately 123 to-date. Need to try to get this up to 200 which was last year's target.

NAACP – The purpose of the group is to reduce gaps between minority and other students. MCPS is partnering with NAACP to help minority kids and parents navigate through the school system. Eric Norman has spoken with the Principal and is working on a mentorship program. The NAACP/MCPS is an all inclusive program. Last year they did analysis of the # of students in each school that are GT. Galway had highest number in the cluster. In past has had Math Club. Suggest having activities with other elementary schools, or speakers in the classroom. Paint Branch is a resource to distribute information for the NEC. Adeola will continue to attend

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the meetings and will keep the PTA informed. There will be a County meeting on 10/4 at Kennedy High School.

Volunteers – Sharon asked that the committee chairs check the PTA contact sheets to ensure that the information was correct. Has list of volunteers who have not signed up to any committee, committee chairs should contact volunteers. Reminder to log volunteer hours in the volunteer logbook in the front office including the hours spent doing volunteer activity at home. We track and report our volunteer hours each year.

FLES – update provided via the agenda. Spanish program is in progress for I, II, and III. Although there was interest in French Level I, there were insufficient enrollees. Paige Elem has opened their French I to Galway students, and those interested in Chinese were directed to the program at Sligo.

### **Old Business**

Audit – The audit for 2005/2006 was prepared and approved by the PTA Officers on September 13, 2006.

Modernization - In response to a question on whether there was a plan to communicate modernization plans to the students, the Principal said that this would be done in December or January. He is waiting on information from the County to better understand the transition plan and the message to be conveyed.

Supplies - Some discussion on the supplies list and approval for the fact that the list had been cut down from prior year. Suggestion that supply lists could be provided to local schools before school starts.

Other - Concern raised that some parents are ignoring the crossing guard. Suggest additional reminders in the Blue Notes and the newsletter.

### **New Business**

Spirit Wear – Lee explained that spirit wear was being expanded to include sweatshirts and sweat pants in addition to T-shirts. Approximate prices are Tshirts (\$7 – 10) , sweatshirts (\$11 – 16) & sweatpants (\$12 – 17). Looking for quotes with other vendors to keep the price down. Will have samples next week.

MCPS Softball - Galway made it to the MCPS softball championships

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 on a motion by Gina and passed unanimously.

**Calendar:**

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Oct 7 – MCCPTA training sessions  
Oct 11- Galway Modernization presentation  
Nov 3 – Sock Hop  
Nov 13-17 Book Fair  
Apr 20 - Bingo