

# PAC Notes September 7, 2011

The **meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m.** by PAC Co-Chairs Kathy Melish and Leo Murphy. Kathy Welcomed everyone back and introduced Leo Murphy as the new PAC Co-Chair, Leo thanked everyone for coming out to the PAC meeting

A Motion was made to **accept The PAC Notes from June 2011**, the motion was seconded and all present voted in favor of accepting the minutes

Karen Walsh, Our PAC Treasurer, presented **the PAC Budget which is fully funded for this year!!** That means all of our fundraising will go to School Improvements this year. All present voted in favor of adding a line item to the budget for **\$500 to the Sped PAC.**

Please remember that Karen needs **invoices** to accompany any request for payment.

## Principal Colleen Duggan's Comments

Mrs. Duggan **welcomed everyone back** to school and thanked them for coming to the PAC Meeting

Assemblies have been held with all of the children to welcome them back (or to) Fisher, and advise them of the **acceptable behavior standards** at Fisher

Future PAC meeting topics will include **curriculum** information and **standards based** report card information

Mrs. Duggan shared a power point presentation to introduce the **goals for the 2011 School Improvement Plan (SIP)**. The goals are based on our progress this year, the updates to the district Strategic Plan, our assessment data, and the results of the Fisher School survey. Our goals for the 2011 school year are as follows:

- Goal 1: **Student Achievement:** To refine opportunities for all students to maximize individual achievement especially in the curriculum areas of Reading Comprehension, Mathematics, Writing, Science Technology and Engineering.
- Goal 2: **Professional Development:** To provide opportunities for staff to collaborate with their colleagues to design rubrics for the standard- based report card, common assessments and common writing prompts to be used district- wide. Teachers will participate in a mathematics vertical team alignment committee to insure consistency in mathematics instruction and student learning from Kindergarten through grade 5.
- Goal 3: **School Community:** To communicate and enforce the policy and practices that promotes a safe school environment for students and staff. To communicate the curriculum changes in ELA and Mathematics to parents and the community.
- Goal 4: To continue to implement the plan for the **school facility** to meet current and future educational needs.

**MCAS-** results were “**Very High**” in ELA and “**High**” in **Mathematics**. The results are embargoed and cannot be shared publically at this time. As stated in the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) letter sent to families in August, there were **subgroups which did not make the target gains** anticipated for proficiency in 2014. When the results are public, mid to end of September, Mrs. Duggan will be able to *answer specific questions or concerns*.

*Every child who has scored in the “needs improvement” and “warning” categories will receive an **individualized success plan** at parent-teacher conferences, which will outline the action steps for improvement.*

The **Scott Foresman ELA program** has been purchased for the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. All students in Grades K – 4 will be now using this literacy program. This program has not yet been integrated into the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade curriculum at Fisher due to budget constraints.

Some parents are disappointed that these materials are not available to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and also that this year's 5<sup>th</sup> grade did not have the benefit of this program last year, however, **the ELA materials used in this year's 5<sup>th</sup> grade are consistent with the materials used with this same group last year in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**Curriculum Explanations by Grade** will occur at the following PAC meetings:

October 5<sup>th</sup> – **Grade 5** curriculum

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Grade 1** curriculum and an explanation  
Of **Standards based Report Cards**

January 4<sup>th</sup> – **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** curriculum

February 1<sup>st</sup> – **Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>** Curriculum

## **September 20<sup>th</sup> is Open House**

Mrs. Duggan asked for **nominees for School Council**, which meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 3:30 to 4:30. School Council works on School Improvement Goals.

**Jenn Shamus was nominated for School Council**, the nomination was seconded and all present voted in favor. She will join Susan Porter as the School Council Parent Representatives for Fisher. Thanks ladies!!

Parents recommended **visual displays** in each classroom at Open House, which outline **curriculum goals** for the grade

Parents expressed **concern about the new school drop-off and pick-up procedures**. Mrs. Duggan asked for some patience and for some time for people to become accustomed to the new system which was designed to minimize the traffic on Gould Street and create a safer environment for the kids. **Car Pooling is strongly encouraged!**

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

PAC Co-Chair Leo Murphy asked for **volunteers for several PAC Committees**. Some Committee Chairs were present

and explained the participation needed in each Committee. The following opportunities exist:

Anne Marie Byrne explained that **Student Enrichment** (formerly the Cultural Arts committee) spends a large portion of the PAC budget each year to bring **lessons from the classroom to life in innovative ways to enrich the learning process for the kids**. Examples would be the visits to the classroom by story tellers, illustrators, Museum of Science, Discovery Museums, New England Aquarium, and many others! Volunteers are needed to coordinate and schedule these programs. **This committee does not have meetings and coordinates and communicates via email**. Please contact Anne Marie if you can help out.

Helen Connor explained that **Docent in Art** is a committee that meets 7 times a year to learn about Artists. The **Docent Volunteers then bring the knowledge of these Artists to Fisher Classrooms. No prior Art experience or knowledge is necessary**, all of the visual and learning materials for Classroom instruction are provided. If you are interested, please contact Helen.

Amanda Russo Explained the **What it's Like** program. What it's like offers activities for children to learn what it's like to be disabled (blind, deaf, physical disabilities, etc.). **Volunteers set up work stations for the children to try various activities that simulate the disability**. If you are interested in "hands on" work in the classroom; this is a great opportunity! Please Contact Amanda Russo to volunteer for this committee

Sue Spendly explained that **school store** offers items to purchase for the children in Grades 2 through 5. The store is open during lunch and recess. **Volunteers would work 3 or 4**

**times per school year for 2 hours.** If you are interested, contact Sue.

Please go to [www.fisherpac.com](http://www.fisherpac.com) to find full descriptions of these committees as well as to find contact information for the committee chairpersons!

## Other Fundraising Opportunities

Rodney Lukowski reminded everyone to **re-register their Stop and Shop Card** at the Stop and Shop Website (under A+ Rewards). Your card must be re-entered each year for the A+ rewards program for Fisher.

Also, you will have opportunities throughout the School Year to **purchase Gift Cards at face value, also known as “Scrip”**. The cards can be used as cash at local restaurants, gas stations, and retail stores. Fisher receives a percentage of each Scrip purchase at no premium above face value for the purchaser.

If you shop at Amazon.com, please access their site through the link on our [www.fisherpac.com](http://www.fisherpac.com) website. **When you access Amazon through this link, a percentage of the dollar amount of your purchase will be donated to Fisher**

Karen Balerna reminded everyone that there are **collection bins in our school entryway for Box Tops, Campbell Soup Labels, Tyson Points, and empty toner and ink cartridges**. Please also consider donating your **Coca Cola Points** on their website.

Trivia Night!!!!

Rather than holding a Silent Auction at the end of the school year, the PAC will be **hosting two Trivia Nights at Beckett's (October 15<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup> ). SAVE THESE DATES!!**

In addition to the Trivia, **Teacher Treats and Parent Donations** will be auctioned off in a silent auction format.

**Volunteers are needed!** Please contact Kathy Melish or Leo Murphy. Check [www.fisherpac.com](http://www.fisherpac.com) for more info!

## New Business

Amanda Russo reminded everyone that **the Scholastic Book Fair** will take place during Teacher Conference Hours in October. Volunteers are needed, please contact Amanda

Laurie Marshall reminded everyone that the **Fisher Book Giving program is offered** through Mrs. Lazarro in the Media Center. Through this program, books can be purchased and donated to the Media Center. The purchaser can make these donations in honor of a birthday, anniversary, or to memorialize any special occasion.

Helen Connor introduced a program called Plum District which is a "deals" website similar to Groupon. A link to Plum District can be sent out as a Mass Email to all Fisher Families. Those that "click" on the link, will be added to Plum District's Daily email. **Fisher will be paid \$3 for each "click" on the link.** It is easy to unsubscribe from this website if you are dissatisfied with its content

Karen Balerna asked if the PAC would consider re-instating the **Innisbrook Wrapping Paper** online sale.

## And Finally...

As we all know, **our Town is having serious issues with funding for our Schools.** As an example, our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Classrooms all have AT LEAST 28 children in them. The School Committee has asked for an Opportunity to visit PAC to discuss this funding problem. Please stay tuned, we will let you know when this important discussion will take place at Fisher

SEE YOU ALL NEXT MONTH ON OCTOBER  
5<sup>TH</sup>, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MEDIA CENTER  
FOR OUR NEXT PAC MEETING