

Adams Spanish Immersion PTO Minutes for Tuesday, October 16th, 2007 at 7:00pm

PTO Officers present: Chris Cloutier, President; Frank Zink, Vice President; Leslie Dwight, Treasurer; Kate Goodrich, Secretary

Staff present: Claudia Baldwin, Assistant Principal

Parents present: Gena Johnson, Theresa del Rosario, Janelle Rohr, Susan Kaskel, Katie Resch, Ruben Rosario, Merri Fromm

Guests present: Nancy Stachel, Executive Director of Elementary Education at St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS)

Nancy Stachel from SPPS gave a presentation on Restitution, a self-discipline training used in many St. Paul public schools, independent of or in addition to Responsive Classroom. Restitution is creating conditions for the person to fix their mistake and to return to the group strengthened. When teachers using Responsive Classroom feel they need more ideas for dealing with students' various behaviors, Restitution provides additional tools for doing so, while complimenting Responsive Classroom.

Teachers at Adams have taken a three hour Restitution training and will attend more training later in the school year. PTO meeting attendees expressed interest in learning more about Restitution and agreed it seems like an easier program to understand than Responsive Classroom. Attendees were relieved to know that Restitution and Responsive Classroom work very well together, instead of being two totally separate programs. We may ask Ms. Stachel back again for another parent presentation, so that many more parents can learn and ask questions about Restitution.

The PTO 2007/2008 revised budget was voted on and approved.

Adams PTO meetings will now be held at 7:00pm on the third Tuesday of each month during this school year, with the exception of November, 2007 and March, 2008 (due to parent-teacher conferences). Therefore, only two PTO meetings will remain - on the second Tuesday of November, 2007 and March, 2008 – also at 7:00pm. PTO meeting nights changed so that more people could attend Site Council and PTO meetings, now that they will be, for the most part, on separate nights.

Harvest Festival co-organizer, Susan Kaskel, announced the need for volunteers for 7:30pm shifts at the upcoming festival, Friday, October 26th, 2007. Please contact Susan at 651-698-0770 or email AdamsHarvestFest@comcast.net.

Leslie Dwight, on behalf of Adams Library Committee, announced that a half-time teacher-librarian (able to run our library and provide children's programs) will be hired and will start at Adams in November, 2007! This is a joint site council and PTO

committee, supported by Rosemary Peterson, Adams Principal. Dedicated volunteers are currently working hard to re-organize the library in order for it to open again soon. If you are interested in helping in the library, please contact Janelle Rohr at jdrohr@pro-ns.net.

Representing the Adams Fundraising Committee, Frank Zink explained about the committee's recommendation that the PTO stick to the previously announced larger fundraisers (Geckler catalog sales, Harvest Fest, Exercise/Read-a-thon, Spring Carnival, direct contributions) throughout the school year rather than adding other smaller ones to its list. The primary reason for this recommendation is so parents won't constantly be asked to donate money and/or buy products all year long.

Future PTO agenda items: meeting Adams' Spanish speaking interns; discussions of dual immersion and LAS group testing. If you have ideas, please contact Chris Cloutier, PTO President, at chriscloutier@comcast.net.