

**Ledyard Center School
Parent Teacher Organization
Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2011**

Meeting Called to Order

7:00PM

Members In Attendance

Greg Keith, Jami Allyn, Laurie Marcotte, Julia Cronin, Priscilla Bauman, Melody Farris, Vince Whittle, Naomi Rodriguez, Lorraine Healy, Stephanie Kamperschroer, Jen Boudau, Lisa Major, Karen Brown, Shiela Bairstow, Carolyn Olczak, Michael Washington, Douglas Ysewyn, Danielle Kinney, Alex Rode, Joanna Priest

Treasurer's Report

- Checking Account as of 9/6/2011 - \$22,000.00
- Next Mtg. we will discuss our budgets for PTO funded items ie Field Trips, Art Supplies, Playground Equipment and Goal Item (Promethium Boards)
- Last Year's Walkathon raised \$5,348.23 toward Promethium Board Goal which includes the \$200.00 for expenses such as the water provided

Elections

- Currently President Position is vacant – discussed that this position must be filled tonight if possible.
 - Laurie Marcotte is nominated and agreed to take the position so long as she has a Co-President. Jami Allyn agreed to be the Co-President. Motion to approve. All in Favor. 0 not approved. 0 abstained from voting.
 - Current Officers:
 - Laurie Marcotte and Jami Allyn - Co Presidents
 - Julia Cronin – Vice President
 - Priscilla Bauman – Treasurer
 - Melody Farris – Secretary

Administrator's Report (Greg Keith, Principal)

- 1st day of school went great, all children made it home by 4:25. Time is a little later than expected for the future - new kids and new bus routes makes for an adjustment period.
 - Jami Allyn requested that if the bus routes change from what has been posted, please let parents know ahead of time so they can plan accordingly.
- Greg Keith had his grade level meeting with Grades 3-6 today, tomorrow will be Grades 1-2, and will meet with the Kindergarten within the next few weeks.
 - Meeting was for a general introduction, to introduce the school rules along with the theme of the year.
- The Bulletin and The Day were at the school today – articles on 1st Day will be published in tomorrow's papers. (*See attached articles below*)
- Mr. Keith's goal is to get the 6th graders involved and eventually take over morning announcements sometime mid September.
- Parent Information Packets expected to be sent out in children's backpacks early next week.
- CMT Scores from 2010-2011 School year were received 2 weeks ago and will be mailed out to parents.
- All (3) Tech. Employees have resigned from all (3) Elementary Schools this year – hoping to have this resolved ASAP.

- PARKING – Mr. Keith has requested a change in the parking in the front of the building. Teachers will park in the square area in the front of the building, leaving the long strip of parking available for parent pick up and drop off in hopes to lessen the traffic.
 - Concerns were raised from PTO members that this could cause more traffic issues – Mr. Keith will observe this new format and update us on how it works. If it does not assist in traffic reduction, we will go back to the previous arrangement.
- **Website: *lcswall.net*** - New Blog created by Greg Keith as a way for the Principal to communicate with the community on what is happening at the school.
 - Included on the blog is a direct link to the LCS website, and a daily update from Mr. Keith.
 - Goal is to include the newsletters on the blog to hopefully eliminate the amount of paper that parents receive on a monthly basis. Will continue to mail out the newsletters for September and October.

Upcoming Events

- Parent Information Night – Thursday, September 15th 6:30PM – 8:00PM
 - Would like to have PTO presence with a laptop at the door in order to get parents to sign up with their email and contact information.
 - Best way for PTO members to man the welcome area is to rotate volunteers based on the schedule that parents will be meeting with their children’s teachers. Mr. Keith will email all present members the schedule for the 15th so they can sign-up their availability with one of the Co-Presidents. (*See below schedule*)
 - 6:30 – 7:00 K/AM and gr 1 – 3 classroom presentations
 - 7:00 – 7:30 K/PM and gr 4 – 6 classroom presentations
 - 7:30 – 8:00 Instrumental music info session
 - 6:30 – 8:00 In the gym: PTO and community organizations
- Ice Cream Tuesdays- will start on the 20th – Flyers will go out to parents
- Pizza Thursdays will start on the 15th – price will be the same at \$1.75/slice – volunteers needed (at least 10)
- Volunteer Coordinator needed – contact name of interested party will be given to Jami at end of the meeting – Lisa Major also interested in helping out.
- Discussion of making the Family Fun Night back to the Family Fun Day – possibly Saturday. This will allow for a better turnout.

New Business

- PTO By-Laws - we do have by-laws but they unfortunately have not been located. Will have to search for them, or adopt new by-laws by using other school’s ie Gallup Hill for reference.
- Promethean Boards (**Mr. Rode discussed**)
 - Our long-term goal is to attain boards for all classrooms.
 - Currently we have (9) Boards – All of the 6th grade classes, one 5th grade class, all of the 4th grade classes, one 3rd grade class and the library currently have boards.
 - Next goal is to finish the 5th grade classes and then down the grade levels.
 - Promethean currently has new touch and pen boards which are designed to be age appropriate – might be something worth looking into for future boards.
 - Box Top funds are used towards the purchase of the Promethean boards - \$1563 earned last year (of that amount \$540 was box tops from the Cake Lady)
 - Next meeting we will discuss the new prices and options for the future purchase of the boards.
- Fund Raisers Items (Stop&Shop, Target, Amazon, Tyson, Scrips, CocaCola, Box Tops)
 - Amazon Program – no longer in use – what happened to the program?
 - Tyson Project A+ - Save the strips on the top of the Tyson bags and return to the school for points.

- CocaCola Caps – caps collected can be used for catalog items – recess and art type supplies.
- BoxTops – this year’s goal will be 1700 box tops – Jami Allyn will provide the “Goal Poster”.
- Scrips (Karen Brown) – Purchase gift cards through scrips program and Ledyard Center will receive a certain percentage of the sales. Last year the cards were turned over in (2) days, but in order to save more money in the shipping the turnover will be in (7) days.
- Hanes Shirts – if we are interested in ordering shirts – Hanes will send shirts and each ordered shirt will contain a boxtop – good way to get more boxtops.

Closing Items

- Request was made that the Republican Town Candidates be allowed to introduce themselves at the next PTO meeting. This was Approved.
- Request was made that the Democratic Town Council Candidates be allowed to introduce themselves at the next PTO meeting as well – This was Approved
- Request was made that the Town Council Candidates keep their introductions to a minimum time as to not extend the meeting too long.
- **Next Meeting will be held on October 12th – 7:00 PM**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10PM



Ledyard all smiles on Day One

Ledyard - Students standing in the rain on the playground of Ledyard Center School Tuesday were all smiles and laughter as they waited for their buses after their first day of school.

As teachers helped line students up according to bus routes, Greg Keith, the new principal, socialized with students and asked about their first day. Groups of students shook his hand and offered high fives.

Earlier in the day, as nearly 500 excited kindergarten through sixth grade students filed off their school buses and entered through the doors of Juliet W. Long School and Gales Ferry School, they were greeted by Anne Hogsten, their new principal, and Pam Austen, the new assistant principal.

"The children came in with big smiles and were showing off their new sneakers and backpacks," Hogsten said. "The overall feeling was that (the students) were so ready to be here."

Hogsten was principal of Moosup Elementary School for two years before seeking the position in Ledyard. For nearly 10 years, Austen was a third-through-sixth-grade teacher in the Deep River school district.

NorwichBulletin.com

Ledyard Center School's new principal hard to miss

Ledyard, Conn. —

Two new principals started in Ledyard schools Tuesday and one of them was impossible to miss.

Greg Keith, a 6-foot-11 former college basketball player and 1986 Norwich Free Academy graduate, began his duties at Ledyard Center School. Keith made it clear from the outset that he would use his imposing size to make the school's 455 students feel secure.

"If you don't feel safe then you can't learn," he said addressing fifth-graders in the school's gym Tuesday morning. "And we're all here to learn."

A Preston native, Keith said he wants to empower students and parents. He plans to turn over responsibility for morning announcements to sixth-graders and start a blog at LCSWall.net. Another goal is to regularly recognize student achievements.

"I want half the kids in my office for good reasons," Keith said in elaborating on his "bragging rights" principle. "People who do good deserve recognition."

Gales Ferry School/Juliet W. Long School Principal Anne Hogsten and Vice Principal Pam Austen share Keith's desire to be "approachable." The two spent much of Tuesday morning going to individual classes and introducing themselves to their 500 students.

"I think it's good that we went together," said Austen, an Old Lyme resident who is beginning her career as an administrator after teaching for 10 years. "To show that we are new and together is the right spirit."

Buses were on time and facilities were well-prepared for opening day, said Hogsten, who lives in Groton and was principal at Moosup Elementary School for two years.

"Considering all that happened with the hurricane, we're great shape," she said.