PTO Meeting Minutes

17 September 2009

Meeting led by Kim Weber

-General “Thank You” for all who participated in the Donuts for Dad’s and to Donna Broderick for all her hard work.

-Shane’s Rib Shack Spirit Night earned $150.60. Spirit Night totals so far are $493.14

-Profit from Donuts with Dad is approximately $659.67

-Still need to pay for the CRCT Board and the first year book deposit.

-Brusters Spirit Night is next Tuesday September 22nd from 7-9.

-ITBS testing for 3rd graders coming up. Please be sure that kids are well rested and ready for testing.

-Picture day will be on September 30th. These are the pictures that will be used in the yearbook and they will be full color.

-We will be having a Spirit Night at Stevie B’s on October 1st.

-Yearbooks are available for purchase online. Parents are also encouraged to upload pictures to use in the yearbook on Josten’s website.

-3rd grade chairperson for yearbook still needed.

-Tina Marsh is looking for parent volunteers to help set up the science lab.

-Thursday September 24th at 6:00 pm there will be a Benefit/Talent Show “Putting on the Red” to benefit the American Red Cross. Please contact Donna Broderick for more details.

-Turned meeting over to Cheryl Sanborn.
-We had over 150 grandparents visit on grandparents day.
-Cheryl introduced Blake Bass, Coweta County Schools Superintendent.

-The cub scouts presented the American Flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

-Questions from Cub Scouts for Blake Bass
 -How has school changed since your childhood? “The curriculum is a lot harder and the higher stakes testing. The availability of instant information.”
 -How is the school system structured? “There are 7 members of the Board of Education from the different districts in the county. The BOE hires a Superintendent. There are Central Office personnel. School Administrators. Teachers and Students.

-Presentation from Blake Bass
-This is the first time in 34 years the State of Georgia has had to make such large cuts.
-Employees are taking 3 days unpaid leave to assist the budget.
-The 2008-2009 Budget was $175.9 million. The 2009-2010 Budget was cut to $172 million.
-Cuts included not funding into the reserve.
-Austerity cuts of $8 million
-Required cuts of $2.2 million
-Positions and other budget cuts of $7.2 million
-The worked long and hard to not remove any certified teachers from their positions.
-The budget was worked on with the recommendations from the school administrators.
-All White Oak Elementary’s eliminated positions were moved into new positions.
-After the budget was set the state called for an additional 3% cut.
-The 3 day furlough saves $1.2 million
-It is No Frills this year
-The millage rate was not raised to accommodate the budget.
-Anticipate all schools and the school system to make AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress ) this year.
-Coweta County is above the national average in SAT scores.
-The Swine Flu(H1N1) is being monitored daily. The school nurses are giving the School Board daily updates on absences and if there are clusters in certain classrooms. (WOE only had 7 student absences today and no staff members were out)
-The H1N1 vaccine is going to be available the 1st of October.

Blake opened the floor to parent questions
-“How are cuts decided on?”
 The process begins in January and is approved in May. Money is controlled at the Central Office level. Cuts are decided on by the Board of Education based on the recommendations from the superintendent. It was decided that no certified teachers would be cut. Everything else was on the table. Coweta County did not have the growth that has been seen in the past years. Last year we had 200 new students and the year before had 1200 new students. The more growth in a school system the more funding the system receives.
-“Why didn’t we just go into the reserves?”
 The cash reserves are approximately $13-14 million and the monthly payroll for the county is $10million. It just isn’t enough.
-“Where is Coweta County ranked among Georgia schools?”
 The top 30 in school systems of our size (23,000 students)
-“Can parents see where the money in the school system goes per student?”
 If you call the Board of Education they will get the information for you

-Next meeting changed to 22 October 2009 due to a holiday weekend

-Susie Kirkham asked more teachers to attend the Spirit Nights because the kids love seeing them outside of school.