

## **KES PTO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

### **March 19, 2010 - final**

*Attending:* Jonathan Kaplan, Terry Costin, Sara Beame, Nancy Walsh, Alexandra Williams, Chrystine Vance-Homer, Mary Gaza, Jo Ziegler and Tricia Padian. *Absent:* Lynn Garofolo and Enid Linden. There were approximately 40 PTO members present.

The **January 13, 2010 minutes** were approved.

Alexandra Williams gave a report on the **Garden and Greenhouse Committee**. Plans are underway to rearrange the edible garden, making more room for beds and tools. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be helping to re-plant and enlarge the butterfly garden in front of the school. The committee will be looking for donations from KES families as well as the community.

There is a need for more volunteers to help twice-a-month in the **library** shelving books and performing other small tasks. If anyone would like to help, they should contact Lisa Bart.

The **Parenting Talks Committee** will host an event in the KES cafeteria on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm featuring motivational speaker Lee Woodruff. All are encouraged to attend.

Sara Beame read the **Certificates of Appreciation**.

Nancy Walsh gave the **Treasurer's Report**. So far this year, the PTO has made \$461 from A&P cards. ASA enrollment is at record highs and should come in over budget. KES apparel sales are very good. The PTO made a \$1500 donation to Family University. Unfortunately, due to the economic situation, our BOCES funding is down 12 percent from last year. Sara Beame will present the budget for the next school year at the June General Membership meeting.

The **Nominating Committee** has begun the process of filling PTO positions for the next school year. PTO by-laws require that the nominating committee consist of at least two people who are not current committee heads or Executive Board members. The general membership voted to approve Julie Einhorn, Debra Keating and Emily Walsh as non-committee head or Executive Board members of the nominating committee.

Board of Education member Mark Lipton presented the **2010-2011 Katonah-Lewisboro School District proposed budget**. After getting community input and making any changes to the Superintendent's proposed budget, the Board will vote to approve it and then send it to the community for final approval on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Two major cost increases that affect this budget are mandated employee and teacher retirement costs and contractual health insurance costs. These two costs represent a 40 percent increase from the previous budget and, according to Mr. Lipton, are driving the current budget crisis as student enrollment has remained pretty stable.

In the face of these costs, according to Mr. Lipton, the budget was made very lean in order to keep the overall increase at just under 3 percent from the previous year. In the proposed budget, 43 positions would be cut, representing some 31-32 people. The proposed budget also includes modest class size increases and slight reductions in course offers, primarily in

the high school, while maintaining most extra-curricular programs. The tax increase for the Town of Bedford would be 9.4%.

After his budget presentation, Mr. Lipton participated in a Q&A with the general membership. Many parents spoke of their concerns with some of the budget's proposals. Among the topics discussed were class size in the lower grades, triple-tripping of buses, guidance counselor cuts and high administration costs.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Tricia Padian.