

**MINUTES OF
AVONA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL P.T.A., INC.
BOARD MEETING
February 18, 2004**

In Attendance:	Debbie Nagy	Michele Benes	Alison Merkt
	Karen Stahl	Sheri Cawley	Buffy Allen
	Dawn Purcell	Stacey Izarek	Terry Gulick
	Cathy Smyth	Debbie James	

Meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Debbie Nagy, President.

Minutes of the November 20, 2003 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report was given as follows:

Checkbook balance as of October 16, 2003:	\$ 18,266.69
Income:	1,692.32
Expenses:	<u>\$ 10,875.99</u>
Checkbook balance as of February 18, 2004:	\$ 9,083.02
(Includes check #1797)	

Correspondence: Thank you email was received from Chris Marsh, grandmother who attending Night without Mom thanking all involved for a memorable evening. Thank you note received from Ann Keeney for the get well basket received from the PTA. List of books was submitted by Norma that was purchased for the library from the Library Account.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Publicity: Michelle reported that the Bulletin board has been kept up. Also included was the sports sign-up information. In December there was a student who was in the hospital and we purchased coloring books for him.

Health & Safety: Cathy reported on Jump-rope for heart. Six parents signed up as helpers for 259 students. Mrs. Statile contacted the high school for more helpers. There were 6 on Monday and 10 on Tuesday. We need to put on the forms that go home to the parents the name of the child as well as class and teacher. This will help in the scheduling and calling for help. Jumpers were given a healthy snack of popcorn, pretzels and oranges with water. The helpers were given a lunch of pizza, chips, brownies and soda. Total expenses were \$132.59. Total funds raised for the American Heart Association were \$4360. Pamphlets on seat belt safety were sent home to students. 310 pamphlets were received at no cost.

Holiday Shoppe: Was scheduled for Friday, December 5 and December 6th. Letter was sent home to inform parents about the cancellation of the holiday shoppe due to the inclement weather and the early dismissal. We had very poor response for volunteers. We had volunteers from Alison Merkt's Girl Scout troop. We went to Williams Township to observe their holiday shoppe. Items were color coded by price. The shoppe was held during school hours with 20 to 25 minutes allotted for shopping. There was no wrapping. There were six to eight volunteers. Every child got to shop because there was money from the holiday shop and from the PTA. Wilson's holiday shoppe was also observed and based on the findings Michelle is proposing that the holiday shoppe return to during the school day.

Hospitality: Cathy reported that she needed to purchase cups for different events totaling \$16.37. Gift cards for Weiss and Giant will be used towards Teacher Appreciation Week.

Membership: To date we have 115 members who have joined the PTA, 95 parents and 20 faculty members. \$460 was deposited. Report submitted with numbers of members by class.

Night without Mom: Night without Mom was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the school's All-Purpose Room. The budget is \$300. I spent \$190 on three different crafts, which were purchased from Oriental Trading. \$23.54 was spent on card decorating supplies from AC Moore and Cathy Smyth spent \$58.34 on drinks and snacks, for a total amount spent of \$272.08. We came in under budget by \$27.92. Approximately 144 of each craft were ordered and there were around 45-50 left over. Eighty-three responses were received and seventy-eight students attended. Terry reported that the event went well. Cupcake table and card decorating were the most popular.

Room Mother: Cathy reported that the Winter Festival Party went well. The upstairs craft was very popular and we ran out of the craft. We also ran out of food available in the snack room. It was suggested that a snack room ticket be given out so that students can only enter into the snack room once. Students seem to be hanging out in the snack room if they don't feel like participating in the events. The crafts downstairs were done within the homeroom as suggested by the teachers. This worked out well.

School Spirit: Windows have been decorated. December and January stayed with the winter theme. March will be decorated for St. Patrick's Day and then we will have a spring theme. Buffy plans on using stars for the end of May, beginning of June for our "All Stars". Total spending is \$32.49 for supplies.

School Store: \$150 was deposit for December, \$81 for January, and \$85 for February. \$100.74 was spent at Profits Plus, \$41.99 for Max Cowen, and \$46.73 was spent for the Student of the Week pencils for Mrs. Kaye.

Class Trips/Assemblies: Stacy Izarek reported that all grades are scheduled. No new assemblies have been planned. We had two so far trying to get a math related assembly together. 4th grade is going to Wegman's to visit the store and the trip coincides with healthy foods.

Read Across America: Stacey reported that on March 2nd PBS will be hosting an assembly on this day. Mr. Wright will be reading at Barnes & Noble on Tuesday, March 2nd. This will be a book fair. Parents will receive vouchers and the school PTA will earn credit based on our sales. He will be reading from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Flier should go out as soon as possible. Vouchers should be received in the near future. Stacey was unable to put the play together in time for Read Across America. We could do the birthday cake again. She is also open for any suggestions. Debbie suggested forming a committee to put something together. Slumber party idea was suggested. Teachers would like to see one or two days dedicated to Read Across America instead of a whole week. Looking for readers who can volunteer to read either in the classroom or faculty room.

Special Programs: Dawn reported that the current box top contest deadline is on March 12th. A reminder will be sent home. We received a check from Box Tops which included the Box Tops we turned in last June as well as the Box Tops from our Fall 2003 contest. The check was \$828.80. Box Top is offering a Parental Involvement in Education Grant. If we could fit one of the programs we already have planned for this year into this grant perhaps we could get some extra funding. As of January 30th we have 15,928 labels. We are still collecting the Tyson Project A+ labels. No Redners tapes have been turned in lately.

Ways and Means: Spring fundraiser is going on right now. Reminder will go out Friday reminding that the orders and money are due on Monday. We found out that they will deliver the merchandise already bagged.

Book Fair: Total Income received was \$3,572.60. Total expenses were \$2,764.45. Final profit after book fair expenses was \$734.20. Pictures were taken. Alison is missing some pictures. If we submit them we may be eligible to win a contest. We received vouchers of \$85. We had 14 parent helpers. There was a parent night on Monday, September 22 from 7:15 to 8:20 p.m. which was very successful. A Junior Girl Scout troop came in to read and to color with the children. They also took turns wearing the Curious George Costume. The theme this year was "Hats Off to Reading". A Guess How Many Candies in the Jar really got the children excited for the book fair. Mr. Wright

declared a Hat's off to Reading Hat Day and children participated by wearing hats. Winners were chosen and awarded with book fair vouchers. A tea party was held for the teachers to preview the books and make up their wish lists. Everyone that participated had a wonderful time. Spring book fair dates are April 16th thru April 23rd. We will be coordinating the book fair parents' night with the Science Fair for 2004.

Faculty Snack: Expenditures to date total \$137.61. Total deposits are \$289.

Yearbook: Karen Stahl reported that she and other members of the board met with another photography company, Christmas City, last week. We are considering changing to them based on their presentation and discontinuing with our current company, LifeTouch. We are also meeting with Yourbook, and on-line yearbook company, who are coming in this week to give a presentation. To date 128 yearbooks have been ordered totaling \$1,200. The 5th grade patrons received totaled \$136. We will vote on the yearbook covers today in the library by choosing your two favorite drawings.

OLD BUSINESS:

New bingo machine was purchased.

Faculty shirts will be handled by the faculty with no PTA involvement.

Mr. Wright will be talking with Mr. Bartosh to invite him to come the March meeting. This will be an Open meeting. Not sure on how long Mr. Bartosh's presentation will last and how much time should be allotted for parent questions.

The computer is here in the Library. Debbie held a vote in January and the vote was in favor of purchasing a computer from Staples, a Compaq Presiro for \$822 minus a \$150 rebate totaling \$672. We also purchased the Staples 2-year service agreement for \$99. Debbie wrote a letter to the rebate company to notify them that she threw the box away before realizing that she needed the bar codes for the rebate. Currently Garry Musselman suggested that the use of the computer be restricted to just the PTA.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cathy Smyth's husband, William Smyth has been working on the Avona PTA website. Cathy made up brief descriptions on the committees. If you see something you want changed, please let Bill know through the Yahoo account.

Janet Border would like to propose that the bylaws be amended regarding the terms for board members and committee chairpersons. Discussion was held on different opinions regarding terms for board members and committee chairpersons. Tabled until the next meeting.

A nominating committee was formed including Alison Merkt, Karen Stahl, Etta Sortino, Terry Gulick and Debbie James would like to be on the committee. The nominating committee members are not eligible to be on the ballot. President position and secretary positions will be open.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. by Debbie Nagy, President.

Submitted by Ann Bogari

Minutes approved on: _____