

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

In Attendance:	Debbie Nagy	Michele Benes	Connie O'Neill
	Ann Bogari	Mr. Wright	Mrs. Meyers
	Karen Stahl	Sheri Cawley	Stacey Izarek
	Terry Gulick	Cathy Smyth	Diane Santo

Meeting was called to order at 7:19 a.m. by Debbie Nagy, President.

Minutes of the February 18, 2004 meeting were approved with the correction of the addition of the Science Fair report which was not taped but was discussed at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report was given as follows:

Checkbook balance as of February 18, 2004:	\$ 9,083.02
Income:	8,470.00
Expenses:	<u>\$ 1,222.30</u>
Checkbook balance as of March 18, 2004: (includes check #1809)	\$ 16,330.72

Correspondence: Thank you was received from Mrs. Statile for the help for the Jump Rope for Heart event. Our students raised \$4,470.00 for the American Heart Association.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Class Trips/Assemblies: Stacy reported that the Fifth grade trip was cancelled due to the weather. It has been rescheduled for April 22nd at the same time. Third grade is going to Quiet Valley on March 31st. Lunch slips were sent.

Read Across America: Stacy reported that it was a successful week. Mr. Wright read at the Barnes and Noble book store. About 15 students were present. We raised \$101.53 from sales made during the event and Debbie Nagy spent \$104.30. A motion was made by Cathy Smyth and seconded by Stacy Izarek to approve the amount spent in excess of monies earned for books during the Barnes and Noble book fair. The budget for Read Across America was \$1250. Stacy would like to see the balance of that budget used towards our book fair so that every student would be able to buy a book. The balance is \$1,163 which will be used at the book fair for students to buy books with. Stacy also requested that for next year more teacher input be given so that the teachers would be involved in the planning and be able to incorporate the week into their curriculums better. It was suggested that a committee be formed with the teachers and PTA and it was also suggested that Ms. Burns be on the committee.

Publicity: Michelle reported that Mrs. Statler's daughter was in the hospital. We purchased some books at the Barnes & Noble for her.

Book Fair: Alison reported that she needs help. The Book Fair is on Monday, April 19th with the Science Fair.

Health & Safety: Cathy reported that the seat belt safety pamphlets were sent home. Diabetes screening pamphlets will be going out also. Both are at no charge to the PTA

Holiday Shoppe: Diane reported there was a luncheon held on Tuesday but with the snowy weather no one from Avona had attended.

Hospitality: Cathy reported that she is working on Teacher Appreciation Week which is the first full school week in May.

Membership: Nothing new to report. To date \$402.52 was forwarded to state PTA.

Nite without Mom: Nothing new to report.

Room Mother: Nothing new to report.

School Store: \$130 was deposited for March per Sheri. We won't be making any more purchases for this year. We may possibly have a sale to reduce inventory. Items such as book socks have not been selling and we have some left.

Science Fair: Packets were sent home about the fair and to register. Science Fair is on Monday, April 19th. There are books available at the library for anyone who needs help or ideas. We can make photo copies for students. The fair runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Projects can be brought in during the day if extra time is needed for set-up.

Special Programs: Debbie read the report submitted by Dawn. The boxtop contest ended on Friday, Dawn needs to know when the winners can be announced. The box tops must be sent in by March 31 to be included in the final check. We will have one more contest during the month of May. Dawn is in the process of obtaining letters from Weiss markets so that students can get the 20 bonus boxtops. She is contacting other stores to obtain additional letters. The P.I.E. grant deadline is April 9th. Any photos we can send in with the application will help. This is a \$1000 education grant that we can apply for. The account balance for the soup labels is 16,228. If anyone is interested in taking some home to cut, please let Dawn know. Two new collection bins were ordered. Teachers can go to www.labelsforeducation.com to browse the catalog and ordering can also be done online. Please encourage teachers to check out the catalog and let her know if they are interested in anything. Dawn is getting ready to send in our Redner's tapes so if you have any please make sure she gets them to send in before summer. So far we only have a few Tyson A+ coupons to send in. We need 100 to send in. We get \$24 for each 100 submitted.

Yearbook: Karen Stahl reported that she is not sure how many yearbooks were ordered so far. She will be sending a "last chance to purchase your yearbook" flier home in the near future. The deadline for the yearbook is April 19th. The committee met with Christmas City Photo for a presentation and with Yourbook. We have decided to change companies and we are going with Yourbook. A nice feature is that you can work online. With a digital camera we can upload to their company. They have a lot to offer and the committee is excited about the change. We need to decide for picture day if we want to make a profit on the pictures or offer a discount to students. Majority vote was not to make a profit on a kickback. We also need to decide on offering composites. If we decide to offer composites instead of class pictures they will still take class pictures so that we can continue our photo gallery. Debbie will bring more information to next month's meeting. The date scheduled for picture day is Thursday, October 7th

Ways and Means: Spring fundraiser will be delivered on the 30th. \$6,302 was collected. Help will be needed to hand out. Not sure what the exact profit is yet.

Faculty Snack: \$70 income was deposited.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cathy Smyth brought in a copy of what the Web design looks like so far. She will send more finalized copies home for us to review and proofread.

The Bylaws committee will consist of Janet Border, Mary Etta Sortino and Michelle Benes & Mr. Wright.

A nominating committee was formed including Alison Merkt, Karen Stahl, Terry Gulick and Debbie James & Etta Sortino 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Karen Stahl and seconded by Stacy Izarek to make a \$100 donation to PBS.

Debbie would like to order gladiola bulbs from the Netherland Bulb Company for Earth Day. Two units equal 5 bags of 100 bulbs. Each student will get bulbs. The cost is \$79.39 for 1000 bulbs. We would have to sort them and bag the bulbs for the students. Michelle Benes will also look into an Earth Day project for students.

Mr. Wagner is our new superintendent. We are going to have a meeting with him so that he can get a parent's perspective. One of the main objectives will be focusing on the attendance policy.

Next year's first day of school will be on August 30, 2004. Next year's spring break will be Thursday, Friday, Monday, and Tuesday. These will not be used as snow days. If need be additional days will be added to the school year. This change should help with the attendance policy. The required attendance percentage needs to be 95%.

Question was raised as to what happened to the meetings that used to be scheduled with the food service.

Mr. Wright has voiced an interest in collecting authored books for our school. We could display the books in a case in the library. A motion was made by Cathy Smyth and seconded by Diane Santo to purchase 4 books for \$50.87 to add to our collection of authored books. All in favor, motion granted. We may want to increase our budget so that we can continue adding to the collection. Ann Bogari made a motion seconded by Cathy Smyth to increase the budget by \$100 for authored books. All in favor, motion granted.

Diane Santo made a motion seconded by Michelle Benes to purchase a back-up battery not to exceed \$200 for the camera. All in favor, motion granted.

Debbie Nagy would like to see all PTA listed as open on the calendar for next year. All were in favor of making all announced PTA meetings open meetings.

A co-chair for the book fair committee is needed for next year.

Irene Crivallaro, Michelle Benes, and Maria Voletto met to discuss the scholarships. Guidelines were established. The decision was made after a hand vote for Avona to have two \$500 Scholarships available. Wilson will have 2 \$400 Scholarships and Williams will have 2 \$400 Scholarships. Applicants must have attended Wilson Grades 1 through 5 for at least three years; be in the top half of their school ranking; and have been involved in some type of honorable extracurricular activity. The application was improved. The new form will be given to the high school.

Walt Boran who recently retired from the school board passed away on Monday. Michelle Benes made a motion seconded by Karen Stahl to purchase two books in his memory possibly about Ireland. All in favor, motion granted.

Mr. Wright has scheduled a parent workshop with PBS. It is for four Thursdays in October. There is no cost. Twenty people can sign up for the workshop which will run from 6 to 8 pm. Looking into childcare for this time period.

Anne Kaye is also working on a workshop—dates to be announced—possibly April or May.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m. by Debbie Nagy, President.

Submitted by Ann Bogari

Minutes approved on: _____