



PIP Minutes 7:15 pm Wednesday October 6, 2010

Present at the meeting were Karen Herther, Gary Kappel, John Peterson, Sharon Lu, Wi-cher Lim, Murali Sethumadhavan, Rheta Roeber, and Mary Ann Smith.

Introductions

Karen Herther, PIP co-chair, mentioned that PIP is looking for another elementary co-chair. John Peterson is currently an elementary co-chair. Gary Kappel co-lead STEM 2009, Rheta Roeber “follows the money.”

Sharon Lu got information regarding PIP from Xuan Kong. She is also active with Acton Chinese School. Her son, Brian Li, is in the 10th grade. She can help send notes to the Chinese community because she has an email group specific to the Chinese School.

Wi-cher Lim was involved in PIP last year, he has 2 children in college and one at Minuteman Tech.

Murali Sethumadhavan, a chemist, is a neighbor of John's. His daughter is in 9th grade and his son is in 5th grade.

PIP STEM Leadership Award for 9th-12th graders

These awards are based on student participation in STEMFEST 2009, Market Math, Star Parties, and the Robotics team. Leadership involves extra activities like representing PIP at junior high Back to School night, tailoring PIP events for special ed, editing and/or producing PIP videos, etc.

Treasurer's Report

We made \$4100 from Summerskills this year, and that is an unusually high number. We had lots of stock because we bought extra before the price went up. Usually we make \$2000-2500.

We had many donations: \$100 from IR Diagnostic, \$1000 as an IBM Matching grant, a DEA Grow Solar gift, \$100 from a PTO, donations from Toyota and Workers Credit Union, and a \$1000 Solidworks check for the Robotics team.

Due to accounting practices (our accounting is done at the school level), Rheta is not sure of our exact balance but it is about \$5000-\$6000. We have spent \$1800 on contract services (Janice.) We would like her to automate our volunteer sign-ups. She volunteers her time maintaining our website. Karen noted that possibly a student could automate the sign-ups; it could be a volunteer opportunity. We have also donated \$1500 for printing Acton Nature Guides.

Fourth Grade Star Parties

We are looking for one person to be a contact for borrowing Galileoscopes, to help us get them out to the community. Bernie will be the main contact. We need one parent coordinator. Karen will ask Bernie to summarize what is required, what he needs, how we want to have them checked out, so we can send an email asking for parent volunteers. Sharon Lu can help and sending some parent emails for us.

John said that Fourth Grade Room Coordinators are good possibilities for this. Karen said we should get a few Galileoscopes into the broader, non-school community. Karen will put Sharon in touch with Eileen Sullivan and Bernie Kosicki. Sharon can also help showcase the Galileoscopes at Discover STEM.

Harvest Festival

On Saturday Oct. 16, PIP is participating in the Harvest Festival, which is like a Green Energy fair showcasing the green things Acton does. Wi-cher, Murali, Karen, and maybe Kate Crosby will help at the PIP table showcasing our green involvement. We would like something green and interactive like a solar panel where participants can learn, play and engage.

Teen Driver Training/Skid School

This will take place on November 21, 2010. Teens must be 16; they take this class after they get their learners' permit but before they get their license. The class educates them regarding driving physics and reduces their risk of accidents. Wi-cher and Sharon will help coordinate for next year.

Karen said we should be bringing Skid School into Community Ed because it doesn't belong with PIP. We don't pay any money for it, it's self-supporting. PIP should do

the physics part but not the rest of it. Rheta will ask Community Ed about this (??????)

Family Math Game Night

Karen said we need more Boxborough volunteers. One person coordinates student volunteers by email, asking them what hours they want. Another works with the Boxborough Library regarding rules and refreshments. A third does the physical setup of the room, and two adults train students on how to lead specific games. Sharon, Murali, and their children will help. Murali will ask a Boxborough parent, Ron Ramani, to help as well.

Upcoming Events in Winter-Spring 2011

Our Book Club selection this year is How To Think Like Leonardo da Vinci. It's a parent-teen event on February 3, 2011. Fifth Grade Market Math, on February 8, 2011, needs about 12 adult volunteers. Third Grade Market Math, on April 13, 2011, also needs about 12 adults. The Fourth Grade Star Party on February 28, 2011 needs about 6 adult volunteers.

STEM groups in Acton

Murali mentioned that the Einstein Science Club has about 100 student members who will go to the STEM Fair at Windham HS in New Hampshire on Oct. 23. Anyone can sign up to have a Trebuchet team. Karen said that perhaps the Einstein Science Club and/or the Robotics Team could come to a PIP evening meeting and present what they're doing.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Smith

Secretary, PIP