

**Chenery PTO Meeting**  
**May 2, 2013**  
**Minutes**

Megan Pickette, President, called the meeting to order at 9:05am. She welcomed those parents in attendance, and made a special recognition of Bonnie Jin, an eighth grade student who made the national finals for National History Day.

Elena Hanley, Co-Treasurer, presented the PTO Treasurer's Report. Rita Butzer Carpenter made the motion to approve the report; Megan Pickette seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Lindsey Rinder, English/Language Arts, Reading, English Language Education Curriculum Director, discussed the current curriculum for English and Language Arts at Chenery and how it relates to the newly adopted Common Core Standards adopted by Massachusetts. She shared how the donation of books by the PTO has allowed for the school to have the same books taught at the same time across grades 5 and 6. Additionally, the current curriculum provides flexible grouping of students, in addition to spiral complexity.

Patty Soliozy, Mathematics Curriculum Director, addressed the current curriculum for Mathematics. Fifth grade students will now be using Envision Math in lieu of Everyday Math, as will all other elementary school students. The sixth grade curriculum will adapt to what rising fifth graders have learned. Seventh and eighth grade students are split into two math groups: standard and compacted. There is an additional small group of students in seventh grade who take Algebra I, and Honors Geometry in eighth grade.

Megan Pickette thanked Lucy Yeghayayan-De Lefevre for her efforts in making the International Fair such a success. Megan also acknowledged the hard work of Maria Giatrelis and Maureen Annus for chairing the fifth grade activities of Bingo and the Ice Cream Social; through their efforts, an additional \$1900 was raised for Ferry Beach scholarships.

Kristen St. George presented her recommendations on class size. The average number of students in a grade has been steadily increasing, and as a result, changes to the structure of classes must be made in order to reduce class size. Kristen has worked over the past school year to develop recommendations that are revenue neutral. She is proposing to the School Committee and the Superintendent that 6<sup>th</sup> grade students now have teams of four teachers, with five instructional blocks and more foreign language sections. This will help to reduce class size. Additionally, in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students will move from four instructional blocks to five instructional blocks, and more foreign language sections will be created; targeted learning will be eliminated, however study halls will be available for students not enrolled in band, chorus or orchestra. Class sizes will be reduced in 7<sup>th</sup> grade as a result of these changes. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra and chorus will also be uncoupled. Kristen pointed out that because she is not hiring additional staff, the current foreign language teachers will now focus on teaching the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students; 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will not have foreign language. She shared that they are exploring how to teach the cultures of the different countries in 5<sup>th</sup> grade so that students will have exposure to those cultures before selecting a language in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Kristen shared that these recommendations are still in the process of being approved, and she will present these recommendations again at a parent meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>; the information will be the same as what was presented at this PTO meeting.

Megan Pickette presented the minutes from the last PTO meeting. Nancy Serrano-Wu made a motion to approve the minutes; Lucy Yeghayayan-De Lefevre seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Megan adjourned the meeting at 10:45am.