

**BIRCH GROVE PTO BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 16, 2008**  
**BIRCH GROVE MEDIA CENTER**

**Board Members Present:** LeAnne Tieman, Lori Swedeen, Lisa Monson, Scott Noland, Jeff Zastrow, Janean Huser. Other PTO members present: Karon Tollefson, Roger Brown, Jenny Barthel, Tola Edison-Edebor, Robbin Krueger, Kristi Moore, Esther Almeida, Alison Ockely, Susan Rich, Francisco Gonzalez, Ana Gonzalez, Fanny Essamuah, Brenda Freye, Jody Albrecht, Patti Guenther, JoEllen Ricci, Heather Carroll, Jennifer Paulson.

**Introductions:** The welcome and introduction of the PTO Board was given by President LeAnne Tieman. Board Members are as follows: Vice President: Lori Swedeen, Treasurer: Scott Noland, Secretary: Janean Huser, and Teacher Representative: Lisa Monson. Principal Jeff Zastrow introduced himself. He has been a part of District 279 for 7 years as an assistant principal. He spent 4 years at Osseo Junior High and 2 years at Northview Junior High. He commented on the amazing growth of the math and reading scores at Birch Grove over the past years. He is looking forward to a great year and his door is always open to parents/guardians. (and he wanted to let us know that he is a Packer fan)!

**Market Day:** Rhonda Kopp, Market Day representative, handed out “goodie bags” to those present. Market Day is a new fundraiser this year, and the grocery program gives a minimum of 10% back to the school. Orders are placed monthly by 3 easy ways: online, by phone, or order sheet. Delivery and pick up of food at the school cafeteria are Mondays (specific dates and times will be posted on the school calendar and reminders will go home with students). During the month of October, 25 \$1,000.00 gift certificates will be given away. October 3 is the kickoff for the “brochure program”. This fundraiser replaces the Geckler fundraiser (sale of wrapping paper, candy, etc.) and gives 50% of the sales made back to the school. There will be a presentation and also incentives for the students before this date. Information will be sent home with the students and online ordering is available. The purchases will be available for pick up at the school

November 21, (Turkey Bingo night). October is also staff appreciation month. The “E-mazing” drawing will be held this month. Those present filled out information and will be entered in the drawing for prizes given away by Market Day. Lisa Monson won a box of cinnamon rolls for having a wooden apple in her “goodie bag”.

**Budget:** The board assessed the budget last May and voted to make significant cuts so that the PTO can get back to a healthy financial status. The largest gain to the budget was the SEM position. It was cut by the building, so it is no longer funded by the PTO. Other smaller adjustments may need to be made as Principal Zastrow needs to review the history of some areas that PTO funds. Motion was made to approve the budget by Lori Swedeen, second by Patti Guenther. Motion carried.

**Review of Upcoming Events:** Events for the school year sponsored by the PTO are posted on the Birch Grove website. Parents are encouraged to volunteer their time and talents to help support the children. There are still openings to chair or volunteer for some of the fundraisers. If anyone is interested, please contact the PTO via email at [birchgrovepto@yahoo.com](mailto:birchgrovepto@yahoo.com) or in person at the school. Heather Carroll discussed the upcoming Scholastic Book Fair. Karon Tollefson reminded that the orders are due for the Happenings Book Fundraiser. Turkey Bingo, a great fundraiser for the school is held in November. Donations from the staff and the community are a big part of making this a success. Chairpersons for this and the Read-A-Thon, held in February are still needed. The biggest fundraiser for the school is the Carnival. It will be held during Tentare. Tentare means to try. Students get to experience Tentare through culture, art, media, dance, etc. Since the carnival is such a big event, we are looking for a team of 8 to coordinate. LeAnne T. remarked that 5 people have volunteered so far and we will be happy to go over that number. The hospitality department is in need of someone to provide food and refreshments to the teachers during conferences, which are held twice a year and this is funded by the PTO.

**New Business:** Patti Guenther, chairperson for Food Perspectives, explained this fundraiser. You sign up and you are called. An interview is done over the phone and if you qualify, you get to taste test food and you and the school get paid. If we have 30 new sign-ups, the school receives \$100.00. LeAnne T. had volunteer slips available to fill out. Mr. Zastrow briefly spoke on how more parents need to be connected to their child's school. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by LeAnne T., second by Jennifer Paulson at 8:15pm.

*Next PTO Business Meeting: Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 7:00pm in the Media Center.*