Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Attendees:
Kris Jensen, President; Janet Rodriguez, Vice President; Michael Porter, Assistant Principal; Michelle Bias, Treasurer; Rochelle Courtney, Secretary; Kay O’Sullivan, Teacher Representative; Jennifer Larner, Christine Wiott, Eva Ramee, Theresa Ryan, Angela McKeown, Kathy Phillips, Melissa Cyrulik, Christine Hoyle, Craig Melton, Peyton Page, Damanjit Padam,

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes were amended under Fundraising to state that the Sally Foster/Entertainment Book campaign was sent home with students on October 9th and was to be returned to school on October 23rd.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 6th, 2009 minutes as amended was made by Michelle Bias. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Larner. All were in favor.

Algonkian Dad’s Club – Craig Melton
- Kris Jensen introduced Craig Melton who is heading up the new Algonkian Dad’s Club.
- Craig explained that Algonkian PTA had been looking at programs such as WatchDOGS, a national program, to bring dads into the school to volunteer. The committee looking at WatchDOGS felt that the requirements for the program were a little strict and intensive for where we wanted to start. It was decided that a smaller “home-grown” program would be a better start - one that allowed us to schedule dads in shifts, starting two days a week, Mondays and Fridays.
- A survey was handed out at Donuts with Dads in late September where over 200 dads attended. Sixty-five responses were received with dads willing to volunteer for the program.
- Craig feels like the program will be well received among dads.
- Not only dads are welcome to participate, but also grandfathers, uncles and other male guardians. (The term “dad” will be used henceforth to include these.) When the volunteer comes in for their shift they will wear a camouflaged vest to identify them.
- A pizza night for dads is tentatively being scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. for dads to come in and hear more about the club and sign up for shifts. Perhaps if all the shifts fill quickly they will look at opening another day.
- At this time Craig is working on identifying what teachers and staff may want the dads to help with.
- Kay O’Sullivan suggested that a couple of days before a dads are coming in that Craig can email her and she will email teachers to ascertain what their current and immediate needs are at that time.
- Kay also suggested that if all the slots are not filled after the pizza night that the schedule be broadcast via email to other dads who may not have been able to attend that night.
- Mike Porter said that emails are trickling in from teachers and staff with suggestions of things the dads can do. For example, Charlene in the cafeteria would love to have a dad come serve pizza on Fridays!
- Other suggestions brought up included helping the cafeteria hostesses and helping out during recess.
- Kathy Phillips mentioned that some dads may be uncomfortable working with large groups of kids and may be better suited to help with a “behind-the-scene” job.
- Jennifer Larner queried if there might be a way to post the club’s schedule on the PTA website to make it easier for dads to view and sign up. Craig will talk to Cynthia Son.
- Melissa Cyrulik expressed concern about dads that can not show up for their scheduled shift due to work issues or illness. Craig stated that at first he will be the primary contact for cancellations. It was suggested that perhaps there could be a sub-list.
Treasurer’s Report – Michelle Bias

- The current checkbook balance is $37,229.33.
- Large items paid:
  - Joe Romano Assembly $ 795
  - Walkathon expenses $ 659
  - Monster Mash expenses $ 2,915
  - Science Cabinets $ 3,137
  - PTA State/National Dues $ 497
  - ASAP Teacher Fees $ 3,617

- Large deposits:
  - Sally Foster $ 7,168
  - Entertainment Books $ 3,565
  - Monster Mash $ 4,219
  - Walkathon $ 4,550
  - ASAP $ 4,017
  - Directory $ 680
  - Velocity Five $ 389

- Our upcoming expenses will be related to Sally Foster and Entertainment Books, and for final walk-a-thon prizes.
- Upcoming income will come from the gift card fundraiser.

- Michelle discussed variances in our budget versus actual amounts to date:
  - Walkathon: projected: 5,000 actual: 6,650 (1,650)
  - Bingo: projected: 1,000 actual: 1,820 (820)
  - Monster Mash: projected: 500 actual: 1,302 (802)
  - Ent. Books: projected: 1,500 actual: 1,850 (350)
  - Sally Foster: projected: 7,500 actual: 3,989 (-3,511)
  - ASAP: projected: 750 actual: 284 (-466)

President’s Report – Kris Jensen

- Kris said she is not panicking regarding the budget variances. We planned to do extra fundraisers in the fall knowing that they would impact each other. The shortfalls are a sign of the current economic times.
- Overall, the social activities have been a big hit. They are things families can do together for a low cost.
- Kris commended the RTI volunteers. There has been a tremendous amount of help and support to make the initiative work. Thank you notes from teachers and staff were passed around.

Vice President’s Report – Janet Rodriguez

- Janet is still looking for a rack for the lost and found clothing. She has been searching Ebay and other avenues, but does not want to pay shipping charges. She thinks a rack may cost about $100.
- Theresa Ryan commented that lost and found is no longer shown on the morning announcements as that time has been trimmed for RTI – BLT time.
- Janet asked that a motion be made to earmark $100 for a clothing rack.
- After discussion regarding the budget, the motion was tabled until the near future fundraisers and events were complete to see where the budget stood.
- Christine Hoyle said her brother may have connections to obtain such an item and she would talk to him.

Secretary’s Report – Rochelle Courtney

- Rochelle had nothing to report.

Assistant Principal’s Report – Michael Porter

- Mr. Porter spoke about the amazing support RTI has received school-wide. He said the first two days went amazingly well and that it was something to see in action. RTI gives results in “black and white” and it will be easy to see where kids are making progress.
- Mr. Porter told the group that the 5th graders would be taking their SOLs on the computer – with the
exception of the writing portion. The on-line SOLs are very interactive. This is a county-wide policy.

- Next year 4th and 5th graders will take SOLs on the computer, the next year 3rd grade will be added and so on.
- Kathy Phillips asked if there will be the opportunity to opt your student out for a paper test like in middle school.
- Mr. Porter concluded by saying that the Monster Mash went very well and that the kids were very well behaved.

**Teacher Representative – Kay O'Sullivan**

- Report cards are going home November 11th. They are in a new format. Sharon Carpenter has been working very hard to facilitate the printing with a very short turn-around time.
- American Education week is coming up November 16 – 20.
- The Book Character Parade was a lot of fun, it’s always great to see Algonkian Alumni come back with the Potomac Falls marching band.

**Staff Relations Committee – Eva Ramee**

- The Staff Relations committee met on November 5th and November 8th.
- Souper Teacher luncheon on Monday, November 2nd was great. Eva had many thank you notes to share.
- Kim Curl has been in charge of the Souper luncheon for several years but she has a 5th grader this year. Cindy Shrewl will be stepping up to fill her position.
- Eva shared that some of the staff wasn’t aware that the luncheon was taking place so we will be working on bettering the communication of events like these to staff and teachers.
- Staff members expecting babies soon: Mr. D, and Ms. Feaster. They will receive a gift card from the PTA.
- Eva touched again on the staff survey she did prior to the beginning of the school year. She said the staff wish lists were not fully utilized but that this is a good opportunity to reformat the wish list and give it more visibility. Sandeep (Sonia) Kaur has offered to take this job on. The group would like to get it posted on the PTA website so parents/room moms can see it to purchase gifts and things for the classrooms. They will be working to have something ready for Christmas. Kay O’Sullivan suggested that there be a delineation between personal and school wishes.
- Janet Thede will be heading up the Gift Wrapping for Teachers event. They would like to change the dates to December 18th and 21st hoping to help out those last minute shoppers. Janet will be shopping for new, nicer wrapping paper.
- On December 16th, the Staff Relations committee will offer a luncheon for teachers and staff – small scale maybe sandwiches in the teacher’s lounge.
- The committee will be providing healthy snacks at the monthly staff meetings. This month we provided apples and water bottles. Theresa Ryan said it was a fabulous treat.

**Social Committee**

- The Monster Mash was held on Friday, October 23rd. It went GREAT! This event was chaired by Christine Wiott, Tonya Lovelace, and Angela McKeown. All feedback has been very positive. Angela’s haunted stage was a hit and received positive feedback. Some comments were discussed about changing the format of the costume contest to take the emphasis off judging individual kids. It is so hard to choose on child over another. Some ideas brought up included awards based on grade-level participation.
- Kay mentioned the discrepancy in the rules of the cake walk. She asked that the rules be clarified and communicated to teachers and volunteers for the next cake walk.
- Also, we didn’t have enough cakes. Mr. Porter noted that our secretaries, Gail Mattusch and Eileen Veselick each went out and bought cakes after school to donate to the cake walk because they were worried that there wouldn’t be enough.
- Staff participation at the Mash was fantastic – all events have been well attended by the staff.
- Christine Hoyle spoke about the Holiday Bazaar. It will be held December 5th, 8 a.m. to 12 noon.
  - There will be a “Below Five” Santa’s shop. This is a great place for teachers to help. An email will be sent to Kay for distribution to the teachers regarding volunteering.
  - Sweet treats will be sold in the cafeteria.
  - Sing-a-longs with Ms. Pearson with K-4th grade will flow in and out of the music room and 5th graders will perform in the activity room.
Santa will be on the stage for pictures.
There will be face painting and two or three games.
The book fair will be open in the Library during the bazaar.
Melissa Cyrulik will advertise the Holiday Bazaar on the bulletin board.

Parent/Community Relations –
- School directory was published and distributed. There are many more names and numbers in it this year, yet less pages.
- A PTA survey will be going out this week attached to the newsletter. Kris hopes to give people the opportunity to express their opinions on what the PTA is doing this year.
- The poster-making initiative has not had many customers. So far, Tracy Mayobre is the only teacher to have used the service. Kay will send an email to teacher to remind them of this service.
- Kathleen Ortt would like the group to know that volunteers are still needed for American Education Week.
- The H1N1 vaccination clinic has been re-scheduled to take place this Thursday. Only injections may be available. If a parent indicated that only mist is to be administered, the child will go home with a letter explaining why they were not given the vaccination.

Educational/Cultural Affairs
- Janet Rodriguez attended the LEAP meeting. The meeting was very informative about students and texting. Janet had a lot of good information, however in the interest of time, it was decided that Janet would give a report of the meeting at a later time.
- Our ASAP enrollment numbers were low. Some classes were allowed to continue even though they did not have the minimum number of students enrolled, as we did not want to turn away students or teachers.
- We will not make the budgeted income on ASAP due to these factors.
- It was discussed that we need to assess what direction to take with ASAP. Lowes Island Elementary makes $6500 on ASAP and other schools have outside vendors come in and teach classes while we use mainly parents as teachers.
- Kay noted that this brings up an important socio-economic question – some kids’ families can’t afford to pay the high fees for sports or classes outside of school, but they can pay $30 for an ASAP class like kickball.
- Kris said we need to look at the issues – how much money should ASAP make, was scheduling an issue for people, what variety of classes/teachers do we want to use.
- In the spring the 4th and 5th graders will have their basketball league – maybe on those days we only offer classes to the younger kids or maybe 4th and 5th graders will just have to make a choice on what they want to do.
- The cultural arts assembly featuring Joe Romano will take place on November 18th. He is a big hit.
- Book Exchange: This fall they tried a new format. Our librarian, Kori Paull requested that there not be two classes in the library at the same time while she tries to teach, so they make the Book Exchange part of each classes’ library time. Perhaps the book exchange could use another space in the school. Mr. Porter said that was possible. It also was discussed how we could improve the quality of the books offered. Kori may have some ideas on getting books from Scholastic for the exchange.

Fundraising
- Baja Fresh Restaurant Night did very well. The amount was not available yet. The Chuck E. Cheese fundraiser was very busy and the kids LOVED having Chuck E. come to the school. Mimi’s Restaurant Night will be Wednesday, December 2nd.
- Sally Foster pick up will be Wednesday November 18th from 2:40 pm until 7 pm. The following prizes are being awarded:
  - The following students will be dining in style with Algonkian’s VIPs - that’s “Very Important Principals” - Ms. Latham and Mr. Porter. These students sold the most money in each grade.
    Kindergarten - Mikaela Gantz – Miss Werner’s AM class
    1st grade – Madison Bakatsias – Ms. Bechtel’s class
    2nd grade – Katie Gregory – Mrs. Thomas’ class
    3rd grade – Jake Jensen – Ms. Lascomb’s class
    4th grade – Max Jensen – Ms. Fitzgerald’s class
The following students sold twenty or more Sally Foster items to become members of the “Twenty Item & Proud” Club. They will receive a specially-designed Algonkian backpack:

- Mikaela Gantz – Miss Werner’s AM Kindergarten
- Brian Larner and Katie Gregory – Mrs. Thomas’ class
- Nina Malley – Ms. Bonorchis’ class
- Jake Jensen and Abigail Criswell – Ms. Lascomb’s class
- Max Jensen – Ms. Fitzgerald’s class
- Jalyn Reid – Ms. Root’s class

Congratulations to Joseph Cyrulik. He is the winner of Regal movie tickets raffle.

The final prize for our Sally Foster fundraiser goes to Katie Gregory. Katie sold $293 worth of Sally Foster items to become Algonkian’s top seller. She has won a party at the C3 Cyber Club for herself and 14 friends.

The mystery prize Algonkian Bobcats were trying to reveal will stay hidden until next year. Unfortunately we did not reach our goal of $7500 in profits.

- Bobcats sold 118 Entertainment Books. We received many of the unsold books back. There are only 11% missing. Because of our sales and returns, each teacher will receive a book for free. Kay mentioned that if any general education teachers do not plan on using theirs they should pass it along.
- 114 students participated in the Sally Foster fundraiser – this is 31% of our population. The school still can get credit for sales on-line. A reminder will go out with the code for on-line sales.
- Gift Cents gift card fundraiser went home on Friday, November 6th and will be due on November 20th. This is a drop-dead deadline so that the cards can be ordered and received in early December.
- The issue of funding a 5th grade trip to Hemlock was brought to the table by Kris. Kay reiterated that Hemlock had changed ownership and prices had increased. She also stated that kids are aware of the annual trip and are asking about it. There seems to be some flexibility in booking dates. Kris said that since there is adequate money to pay for Hemlock this year, the PTA would fund the trip. However, in subsequent years the PTA will need to determine what portion of the trip can be funded, perhaps in conjunction with parents paying portion, or fundraising by 5th graders.
- Because the county will be paying for the AIMESWEB software for RTI, the PTA can use that money fund this year’s Hemlock trip. A motion to move the AIMESWEB funds of $3190 was made by Kathy Phillips and seconded by Angela McKweon. Next a motion was made to earmark $3200 for the Hemlock trip. The motion was seconded.

**New Business**

- Several small requests have been made to the PTA for funds. These requests include painting the WALG room black, stress balls for the counseling room, and simple games for the older kids after they finish lunch in the cafeteria.
- The requestors have been asked to wait for a response until our fundraisers and events are finished in the next two months so we can assess the budget.

Christine Wiott motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Kathy Phillips seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted, this 30th day of November 2009.

Rochelle R. Courtney
P.T.A. Secretary