

**PEASLEE PTO End of the Year Report – June 2015**  
**Submitted by Liz Nolan, PTO Chair 2014-2015**

The Marguerite E. Peaslee School PTO had a **spectacular** year and accomplished huge tasks due to the strengths and commitment of our team. Each member of the board was dedicated to our mission.

**Thanks** to Meg Byron, Marile Borden, Kerri Martinek and Susan McManus. Also thanks to our two teacher representatives Kerri Lewis and Andi Daunais and Principal Jill Barnhardt. Marile Borden will be stepping down from her two year term in the role of communications so special thanks to all her energy and hard work.

Our goals this year were met above and beyond expectations and that is due to our many supportive parent volunteers and staff. There are two volunteers that should be specifically recognized:

- **Rupa Naik** took over the role of yearbook coordinator this year. It's a huge undertaking of work and time. She has been extremely organized while coordinating with volunteers and the company to ensure that the final publication is full of great memories of the school year and will be enjoyed by all.
- **Laurie Covino** rarely leaves home without her camera. She attends just about all of our programs, events, and activities in order to capture the fun and important moments at Peaslee. These photos are used for the yearbook, publicity, press releases, and for use on our website and Facebook pages.

The success of this year's PTO should be celebrated by **all** of our school community.

**Please join me in welcoming Peaslee's 2015-2016 PTO Board as they begin plans for next year:**

**Chair:** Meg Byron, **Co-Chair:** Kerri Martinek, **Communications:** Nancy Dennehy and Laurie Halsey,  
**Treasurer:** Susan McManus

**Here is a quick year in review:**

- **New playground.** \$96,000 was raised this school year for our new playground project with the support of our Peaslee family community during our Fun Run and very generous funding through the town's Community Preservation Committee. The project is on target for summer installation and a fall ribbon cutting ceremony.
- **New website.** Marile Borden revamped our website ([www.peaslepto.com](http://www.peaslepto.com)) giving us the capability to make on line payments/donations and to sign up for volunteer opportunities. She and Kerri Martinek have kept it updated throughout the year so it continues to be a great resource for information.
- **Tax Exempt Status Approved:** Meg Byron and Susan McManus spent MANY hours completing the application process but we now have our 501(c)3 official charitable organization status.
- **Improved Communications.** We made it a priority this year to make it easy to keep up to date on events, activities, and all of the PTO news by continuing to use our website, Facebook, backpack notices, and email blasts. The fifth grade student council helped us with lunch time announcements, and teachers included PTO info with homework packets and newsletters. The Family Directory is another effort to help families connect with one another throughout the year. We have tried to be diligent about sharing information including financial updates and how funds are used.
- **Diverse Educational Enrichment Programs:** Our Enrichment Team of Ruth Reeve, Laurie Covino, and Helen Clark worked diligently to coordinate grade appropriate and curriculum related programs for all students. These programs are our largest budget expenditure each year and we are proud of the diverse programs offered. The list of programs can be found on the PTO website.

- **Successful Fundraising:** Our two biggest fundraisers were our Fun Run for the playground in the fall and our Kids' Fair in the spring. We were able to limit product type fundraisers this year holding only a cookie dough fundraiser. The Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education, Target Red Card, and Stop & Shop A+ programs continue to be easy, no obligation programs that families participate without any pressure. We also held a few restaurant/store fundraisers such as UNO's, Yowza, and Jenny Boston.

This year's Kids' Fair profits were \$11,650, an increase of over \$5,000 in comparison to the last few years. That was made possible by our fair planning committee and all of our fair volunteers as well as all the families who attended with their children.

- **Overview of Finances:** As we end the 2014-2015 school year, we wanted to share how the PTO has used its funding this year to date:

Enrichment Programs	\$5,954.33
Field Trips/Buses	\$1,456.75
Teacher Grants/Reimbursements	\$776.87
Pre-Approved Classroom Supply Grants	\$1,452.58
Library Support	\$901.70
Teacher Appreciation	\$241.49
Spirit Events	\$347.00
Community Support	\$175.00
Miscellaneous: This includes \$5,000 for the playground and accountant fees involved in the filing for tax exempt status	\$6,780.10

- **Continued Spirit Events and Community Involvement:** The PTO continues to plan fun events as a school community at little or no cost and to coordinate ways for the school to support different community efforts including monthly spirit days in conjunction with a food pantry collection, fall Welcome Back Night, end of the year BBQ, and participation in the Applefest parade. We had a great team of volunteers to work on flower beds, plant bulbs, and prune back bushes in front of the school in the fall. We continued to organize group outings with discount tickets to local sports games. Peaslee was a collection site for holiday food and winter clothing collections to help local families in need.
- **Strong Volunteer Base:** All of our efforts throughout the year would not be possible without a solid volunteer base. There are many ways to volunteer -- one time slot (book fair, photo day, spree day, BBQ set up or clean up), a few times a year (hospitality committee, spirit event team), or a steadier slot (classroom parent, enrichment team, yearbook).

We respect that many of our parents have work obligations and volunteer their time in other ways within the community, but the P in PTO is for Parent and we do need you in order for us to meet our goals and to continue the programs we provide every year. No amount of volunteer time is too small.

We hope that having a variety of opportunities to help the PTO will help you find a way to share your special skills and time for the school.

**Thanks again for an incredible year and enjoy a safe and fun summer!**