

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Meeting Start: 3:15 pm

Introductions

Motion made to approve minutes from May's meeting.

In attendance: Wendy Berman, President; Craig Drenga, Vice President; Aimee Magovern, Secretary; Ashley Nelson, Stephanie Myers, Cindy Faggioni, and Sherry DeCelle.

FOR OUR CALENDARS:

F September 23 Yankee Candle

Th October 13 PTA Meeting, 3:15pm in the school library

Th November 3 Scholastic Book Fair set-up

F November 4 (tentative) Family Fun Night & Book Fair open to the public

M November 7 Book Fair Preview Day (unstaffed)

T November 8 Book Fair Shopping

W November 9 Book Fair Shopping

Th November 10 Book Fair Shopping (2nd half of the day); Staff dinner (4:30-5:30pm)

Th November 17 PTA Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Wendy

Expenditures Prior to the Start of School: 5 laptop computers for lab, and 40 laptop batteries for teacher computers – \$1,826.

Welcome Back Efforts: sidewalk chalking was well received and appreciated by staff and students. Thank you to Aimee and Dawn for helping! Staff room was also decorated with sand buckets filled with treats and snacks on a beach towel.

Staff in new positions received cards and \$10 Amazon gift cards; Miss Grey, the new music teacher, received a welcome basket that included a \$25 Amazon gift card.

2016-17 Calendars were given to all in attendance.

PTA Organizational Chart

All officers have responsibilities:

1. **President(Wendy):** Meetings, Communications on Facebook & PTA section on FRRSD web site, on-going staff appreciation, new opportunities, etc.
2. **Vice President(Craig):** Ski Program, Screen Free Week (with Stephanie M.), Field Day.
3. **Treasurer(Dawn):** Finances & Reimbursements, Fall Fundraiser, Cash Calendar (with Sherry D),
4. **Secretary(Aimee):** Minutes, Newsletters, Press to Otis Observer (Kathy A.) and Sandisfield Times (Dawn), Read Across America/Dr. Seuss' Birthday.
5. **Program Coordinator(s)** are needed for Scholastic Book Fair, Family Fun Nights, Teacher Appreciation Week, Holiday Shop (Kathy Adams), and Staff Dinner during Conferences (Kathy A. & Sherry D).
6. **Reward Program Coordinator(s)** are needed for Box Tops (Karen still behind the scenes; Ashley Nelson will keep track of rewards), Price Chopper, Stop & Shop, MightyNest and Coke/Juice Pouches/Ink.

Box Tops Rewards for the year: Classes will compete in collecting Box Tops. There will be 2 collecting periods, one in the fall (Oct. Nov. Dec.) and one in the spring (Jan. Feb. March). The classes that collect the most rewards will earn pizza parties.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Craig

Craig asked for a vote in support of subsidizing the ski program. Vote passed unanimously. Students pay \$40 and the PTA pays \$25. Last year the PTA expense was \$800. The PTA also provided a pizza party at the end of the program for students and their families.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Wendy presented for Dawn

State of the Treasury

The PTA account: \$9,480.79

Classroom accounts: \$6,095.81

Total: \$15,576.50

Yankee Candle Fundraiser is underway. There was a hiccup in the content of the catalogue: The Home Catalogue was a separate fundraiser. Students receive credit for on-line sales, but customers have to pay for shipping.

The classroom that sells the most will be rewarded.

It was noted that the district now pays for Nature's Classroom. The Classroom account follows the classes and ultimately funds the 6th Grade Boston Trip.

PTA Membership dues collected total \$300 to date.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Aimee Magovern

Membership to date: 24 parents and 8 faculty. It was noted that an email should be sent to Tom so he can highly encourage the faculty to support the PTA.

OLD BUSINESS:

Indoor Recess Kits: A vote was taken and unanimously approved to give each class a budget of \$50 dollars to purchase activities and games. Faculty will submit their receipts to PTA for reimbursement.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Unanimous vote in support of \$300 in **office expenses to be transferred to the school to cover our printing and copying expenses.**
2. Chris Keller asked for \$10 per student for lunch on the **Nature's Classroom** field trip for the purpose of keeping the spending fair. It was noted that it was approved last year.

Let's keep this out for now so we don't spoil any surprises ;)

3. **Family Fun Night** event ideas:

- The Bubble Maker show
- Dance
- Square Dance
- Simon Says Marathon
- Twister Tournament
- Kathy A. suggested trying to get Doug Trumbull, an American film director and special effects supervisor.
- A question was asked about the budget for Family Fun Nights, and the average amount spent is between \$800 and \$1000. Bryson Lang cost @ \$500.

4. **New Program Ideas:**

- As an aside, Kathy A. shared that Bill Dyer asked for help making popcorn during Bingo night for Screen-Free week. We need to help him.

- It was suggested that we switch-up activities during Screen-Free week. Maybe a retro Twister Tournament?
- Classroom rewards will be given for Box Tops. Suggested goal for this year was \$1,500. Kathy A. suggested having a Box Tops collection bin at the library or Town Hall.
- Stephanie M. suggested a Halloween 5K Fun Run. It would cost \$5 and drinks and snacks would be provided at the end of the run.
- Cindy F. shared the idea of a “Trunk or Treat.” Aimee M. offered to call the Chief of Police, Roberta Sarnacki, to promote the “Trunk or Treat” in conjunction with Otis Halloween activities.
- Kathy A. shared the idea of Washington Park’s Pumpkin Walk.
- Cindy F. shared about Cooking Classes that are offered in conjunction with the COOP and the Nutrition Center in Great Barrington. Perhaps this is a Screen-Free Week activity? Cindy will contact for more information.
- Cindy F. also suggested the idea of a Craft Fair like the Hilltown Family Holiday Bazaar in Shelburne Falls, MA where kids are the vendors.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm