

PTO MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 13, 2014

PTO BOARD/CHAIRS/TEACHER attendance: Cheryl Mitcham, Jacqui Goldberg, Heather Jones, Katherine Russo, Katie Spring, Lisa Gold, Gordon Tripp (parent), Didi McCauli (parent), Caroline Doherty (parent), Juniors from Framingham State, Mrs. Brown (teacher)

PRS ADMINISTRATOR: Larry Wolpe, Vice Principal

INTRODUCTIONS – Chairs, members went around room introducing themselves.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- Paula was not here but she and Larry met ahead of time.
- School improvement plan due November 17
 - Look at all the data from teachers, classrooms, tests, etc. Measured heavily on MCAS and PARC. Focusing on 4 areas to improve by 5% in ELA, Science and Math plus sub groups.
 - Currently level 2 school in MCAS.
 - 2 major curriculum initiatives this year - Readers Workshop and 'Engage New York' for Math which is in conjunction with Think Math. Working with TLA for Readers Workshop. Mrs. Brown hopeful that this is a positive program and that she has noticed children are reading – which shows that it is working.
- Instrument and music teacher is gearing up for the Turkey Trot - a school only event which is an assembly informing the students about healthy eating plus a quick presentation of poetry and music.

MINUTES – October minutes were passed around for approval – APPROVED.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Doing at or better than last year
- Money from clubs is used to offset teacher stipends
- Amazon is doing great
- Boks is funded by a grant
- Money for boxtops is not here yet
- Direct donation did very well
- Gift wrap did not do as well as we had hoped – going to move away from Genevieves as a major fundraiser (only 10% participation)
- Kidstuff – January/February event
- Pictures did better than budgeted
- Pumpkin Fair did really well – got a full refund from bounce house and castle
- School spirit did well

- Stop and shop due in spring
- Target is double what expected
- Grade level funding used for field trips already
- Directory had budgeted \$500 and due to sponsor ads, only had to pay \$15
- Recess kids all purchased for teachers
- Summer reading was right on budget

FEF SPELLING BEE – Annual event put on by Framingham Education Foundation. All schools participate with a team of 3 people. We have our team in place (Larry Wolpe, Julie Wolfe, and Hilary Kreisberg). Team name is ‘Don’t Stop BEE leiving). Event is at Cameron at 7pm next Wednesday, November 19. Information will be sent home to invite folks to attend.

COMMITTEE CHECK-INS

BOKS – Program is underway, sent around information to parents informing them of the activities. She has a great group and the program is doing well.

BOOK FAIR – Tracy Lampl is running it tonight. We were moved up as a Premier Seller which means we have more books to sell. WE NEED A BOOK FAIR CHAIR FOR NEXT YEAR. Tracy will not be running the entire program. She can assist but we need a volunteer to run this wonderful program for our school.

BOXTOPS – Thinking the challenge will be soon – flyer to go out before Thanksgiving. Challenge to be planned for time between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

CREATIVE ARTS – Brings art programs into each grade; Japanese drummers came in and performed for the entire school – amazing performance; No programs happening until after the New Year – teachers want curriculum to match the art program – typically happens in the Spring. Mrs. Brown talked about the connection with the studies of families long ago to now. Jacqui noted that Creative Arts costs roughly \$6,000 for the year – which Pumpkin Fair has almost paid for.

5TH GRADE FUNDRAISING/BOOKS FOR BINGO – Books for Bingo coming up December 3; Bake sale and food sale during Book Fair; Roller Kingdom night planned for January; Direct Donation drive after the Holidays; Fun and Games day planned for after the Holidays

GENEVIEVES – Made a decent amount of money but we are looking for a new vendor for next year. Currently looking at catalogs for vendors.

FUNDRAISING – online campaigns (Stop & Shop, Target, Amazon)

- Stop & Shop: ongoing campaign – no total yet; hoping to get more people to register cards
- Amazon: earned \$376 to date
- Target: running total is \$204
- Looking to do more later in year

KWAC – Program has about 40 children; Currently running coat drive and food drive – Food is due 11/18 for A Place to Turn – Coat drive continues through January; Hoping to collect up to 100 bags of food – with Can the Principal - where we have the Principals in the hallway since their offices are filled with food.

MINI GRANTS – Teachers apply for up to \$200 to use in classrooms. Fund things like online programs, school libraries, vocab & science programs. PTO funds \$4000 towards mini-grants. We had 31 teachers apply. Total amount requested was \$4900 so we cut back on amount of book money. We saved some money on picture books from donations at the school. 22 out of 31 teachers have purchased their mini-grants so far and a number of teachers who requested bulletin boards are waiting on the town to get those installed. Teacher sent a thank you note.

PLAY – The first meeting was today and it was an informal workshop to educate the children on drama and what it is and how to act on stage. Official tryouts are the beginning of December.

PUMPKIN FAIR – Lynne took over Pumpkin Fair and she did a fantastic job. She did it all by herself. It made over \$5,300. She has committed to do it again next year.

ROOM PARENT – all parents have been assigned

SCHOOL SPIRIT – order form will be going home soon. We brought in \$430 at Pumpkin Fair. Spirit Fridays will be coming up soon where kids wear Spirit wear on Fridays and classrooms get rewarded for the most points.

SPRING EVENT – Lisa Gold is starting to put things together for an adult only night out.

STUDENT DIRECTORY – Complete and is going out in Friday folders tomorrow. Good participation and fund raising from ads.

TOWN WIDE PTO – No major update

- **DECEMBER MEETING** – In past, we have had a December meeting during the day in order to give parents who can come during the day a chance to come to a PTO meeting. Looking for space to have the meeting the week of

December 8. Larry looking to book the Conference room for Thursday the 11th at 9:30.

- **WRAP-UP AND OTHER BUSINESS** – Talking about changing vendors for our school pictures. Have been interviewing other photographers to move away from Lifetouch. Cheryl has narrowed down 2 vendors to pick from. Coffee Pond and Hayward are our vendors in question. Looking to get them here for the Spring pictures.