

MINUTES

Potter Road Elementary School PTO

Date | time 12/6/2017 7:15 PM | Meeting called to order by SaRah BoweRs and Lisa Gold

Motion to Approve Minutes – SaRah BoweRs

The November minutes were reviewed and approved by the board.

Administration Report – Larry Wolpe

- There will be an informational night on December 18th for parents who currently have students enrolled at Potter about the new Portuguese Two-Way Program that will begin in the Fall. There will be another informational night on January 25th for all other interested parents about this program. The administration is still working on the design and logistics of what the two-way program will entail.
- The school improvement plan is in progress. The program's goals include continued work with PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) and a multi-level teaching program where teachers adapt their lessons to the student's individual performance level – enrichment vs. intervention.
- Potter Road had a great visit from Dr. Tremblay. He was very impressed with the school.
- Ms. Hood gave birth to a daughter in November. Mom and baby are doing well. Ms. Edwards is covering her maternity leave.
- The employment search continues for a new band teacher.
- Principal DelPrete has announced her retirement. The employment search for new principal is underway. A meeting for the parents to inform them about the search process and to solicit feedback was held last Thursday.
- Potter's annual Turkey Trot was a fun time
- The students voted on a name for Potter's mascot – the name of the panther is DJ
- The teachers had a professional development day last Thursday. Teachers spent this time analyzing IReady data and strategizing how to best group students based on this data.

Middle School Math/SAGE Presentation – Megan MacGuire & Angie Goldberg

- There are many exciting math initiatives happening at Cameron.
- Megan and Angie are doing a roadshow to the different elementary schools to educate parents, so they can make informed choices when sending their child to middle school.
- Cameron's math program is SAGE-related and is designed to meet students at their strengths.
- Universal design for learning – set of principles that focus on engagement and creating a curriculum to meet needs of all learners.
- Improved connection to improved math instruction that uses: concrete, representational and abstract, choice and personalized access, in addition to technology to assess understanding and needs
- In 6th grade pretests are given for every unit, which allows for grouping flexibility. If students already know content, they will leave class and take 'math investigations' where they can take the content to a deeper level of understanding.
- Math labs – 30-minute daily enrichment or intervention block built into all student's schedules which could consist of coding, Iready, stem, or SAGE. SAGE students receive 30 minutes of services each day.
- Math 180 – If a need is identified, daily math intervention is taken in place of world language or during a math lab. Focuses on key skills that prepare students for algebra.

- Robotics – every student worked with finch robots for 10 days. The students code the robots to run the program.
- Vex robotics club – collaborate with Robotics club at Walsh. Students build robots to play a game, problem solve, and engineer design process.
- Math club is open to 6, 7 and 8th grade students who participate in MATH COUNTS competition series.

Treasurer's Report – Kevin Harris

- Funds have been released to teachers for mini grants
- Current Total of Direct Donation is \$1960
- Amazon fundraiser brought in \$639 thus far this year
- PTO will be releasing stipends to teachers leading clubs in December

Committee Reports

- Kidstuff – Aimee Stanley
 - Fundraiser raised \$287 and sold 23 books. PTO voted to discontinue fundraiser for the 2018/19 school year.
- Haunted yards- Corrine Sonia
 - Huge success, \$1300 was raised and all proceeds were donated to Potter. Potter is very grateful to the Sonia and Bautista families for their donation and for hosting this amazing event!
- Candy Drive – Corrine Sonia
 - Well run process, lots of candy was donated. \$2000 was donated to the BFund.
- BOKS – SaRah BoweRs
 - Last class of the Fall session held last Friday. Was a great session!
- Mini Grant Committee – Jasmine Laffin
 - The committee met in November and approved or at least partially approved all grants submitted, except for 2. The PTO voted to increase the Mini Grant budget by \$400 so all grant requests were approved.
- Drama Club – Betsy Fishman
 - The drama club will start in January and will most likely take place on Thursdays. It will be open to 4th and 5th graders and potentially to lower grades. If parents volunteer to help, their child is guaranteed a spot. Registration forms will be coming soon. Participants will learn the basics of theater and perform a variety show at Potter in May.
- Sweetheart dance – Kari Canney
 - Dance will take place on Friday, February 2nd in the cafeteria. It is open to all ages and family members welcome. Tickets will be sold on the Spirit Store website as well as by paper forms. Attendees must purchase tickets in advance, no tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets are limited to around 300. Volunteers are needed to set up and assist at the event, as well as to solicit donations.
- 5th Grade Fundraising – Gail Seletz
 - The 5th grade class does extra fundraising to support additional field trips, graduation ceremony, yearbook and activities. There was a successful Skyzone fundraiser on November 9th which made \$1,000. The current fundraiser is a December calendar raffle. Everyday there will be a winner for a different prize. This fundraiser raised \$2,600 on raffle tickets. The class is halfway to meeting its goal. On January 6th there will be a Savers fundraiser happening from 10-1 at Potter Road during which the public can drop off donation items. There will also be a Family Fun Night in March where Books for Bingo will be played. Donated, used books will be collected from students during January and February.

President's Report – SaRah BoweRs

- The PTO purchased additional headphones for students to use with Chrome books.
- There was a TWPTO meeting on December 11th at Brophy. A presentation about cybersafety was given by a Framingham Detective/Potter parent. All parents are encouraged to attend TWPTO meetings.
- PTO Presidents meeting highlights included discussion about community resource development which provides programs to help students have enriching am and pm activities. They are currently exploring how it compares to Y before and afterschool program.
- Dr. Tremblay spoke about building the new Fuller Middle School which will be on the same site as the existing school. The goal is to do this without interrupting the current students. This project is still in its planning phase and is expected to take several years before completion.
- Dr. Tremblay completed his residency program at all schools. He spoke about challenges and striving for school equality across the district.
- Dr. Tremblay also spoke about how to address student anxiety and creating a formal program to make it easier for students to learn.

The meeting was called to a close at 8:30pm by SaRah BoweRs.