

MINUTES

Potter Road Elementary School PTO

Date | time 11/14/2018 6:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* SaRah BowerS

Administrator's Report – Larry Wolpe

- Many fun recent events including Family Learning Night, Pumpkin Fair, Crazy Hat Day, Red Sox Spirit Day
- Teachers are completing a lot of professional development on topics including reading, behavior, adult learning, math workshop, CPR, etc.
- iReady – all students except those in two-way program are using this for math and literacy instruction; seeing increased student investment and goal-setting with teachers/students.
- Social/Emotional – November theme is “gratitude.” There are daily announcements and classroom discussions about this theme. There is also emphasis/encouragement to thank bus drivers, cafeteria staff, and other helpers.
- PBIS – working on maintaining this program and core values (be kind, be safe, work hard). For students who need extra help, a team (teachers, social workers, guidance councilor, etc.) work with families to develop these skills at school and home. Parents can also help by finding opportunities to praise children at home.
- Recently held parent/teacher conferences and they were well attended. Teachers are pleased with the level of support they are receiving from parents. Teachers are always available, so parents should feel free to request meetings with teachers at any point during the year if they have concerns at a different point in time.
- Senior Citizens from Two Life Communities knitted hats and gloves for a K class (a program that has been going on for several years).
- Turkey Trot coming up – fun day on Wednesday before Thanksgiving (student-only event).
- Administrative Coffee Chat – recently hosted with Gabri Oliveira. She is looking for feedback from parents about new two-way program transition. She welcomes all feedback (good, bad, etc.) for her research project.
- Mr. Wolpe has presentation about chronic absenteeism that he hopes to make available soon – good information.
- Thanks to buildings and grounds for installing drains by the rear entrance to Potter to combat flooding, and also for installing new sign at front entry door.
- TeachingTolerance.org is a great resource for curriculum for teaching students about combating cultural bias. PRS teachers use this site and parents can find valuable information there as well. Great topics about how to talk with students about many difficult topics, including wild fires, etc.

Treasurer's Report – Kevin Harris

- Potter Road recently changed accounting firms. New firm is local (very accessible, experienced with nonprofits). Currently reviewing our accounts to ensure everything is properly documented, tidied up, etc.
- Good start to the year – FYTD (Aug 1-today)
 - Activity fees \$2460 (last year \$2600)
 - Amazon \$248 (last year \$320) – Please use PRS Amazon link (not Amazon Smile) for holiday shopping!
 - Direct Donation \$1815 (last year \$1910)
 - Donations Received \$2075 (last year \$1376) – includes Saxonville Haunted Yards, etc.

- Charleston Wrap \$2,727 was spent (PRS will receive a portion of that)
- Bank Interest \$70 (last year \$7)
- Monster Money \$2109 (last year \$2220)
- Pumpkin Fair \$4399 (last year \$4334)
- Box Tops (up for the year – already at \$700 plus and these will be tallied again in the spring)
- YTD Total \$68,391 in bank (checking and savings) – with some large projects planned for the year.

Fundraising Report – Jaime Cesar

- California Pizza Kitchen restaurant night scheduled for 12/13. They donate 20% of dine-in, take-out and catering sales (all day, excluding alcohol) if you provide the flyer when you purchase. Other restaurant fundraisers TBD.
- Potter Road Family Night will be December 5, from 6:30-7:30 PM -- includes potluck, cookie walk, pajama party, Scholastic book fair, and story time cozy corners.
- Scholastic Book Fair needs a new volunteer chair for next year – let Jaime, Jasmine or Suzanne Burke know if you are interested. Anyone interested could shadow Suzanne this year to learn the routine. Very fun program!
- Spring auction in the works (tentatively in April) – off site, adults only, planning is underway. Will need volunteers to help with requesting auction items, etc.
- Please continue supporting ongoing fundraisers (i.e. Box Tops, Amazon, direct donation, Stop & Shop, etc.)
- Thank you for all who helped with Pumpkin Fair – also need new committee chair(s) for that – may change the date to earlier in the month to avoid conflicts. Currently there are two committee chairs, but responsibilities could be divided among a larger group (as many as 10 people) working together to make it easier.

Committees Report - Jasmine Laffin

- Committees in need of chairs (Jasmine has description of each role – please contact her if interested)
 - Pumpkin Fair, Book Fair, Monster Money Challenge (need to collect and count money each day, update board at school each morning - all the materials are already made), Charleston Wrap (already set up and just needs coordination), Creative Arts
 - Need Clubs and Activities Liaison to ensure that every club is complying with policies and procedures, such as permits, locations, activity fees (including family
 - will be caroling rehearsal. Caroling will take place at Heritage on 12/15 at 2 PM. cap), etc.
- Kids With A Cause is off to a great start – 52 students! Coat drive is underway and will continue through November/December. The coat drive will support Antons, as well as our own students at PRS (in place of Snow Buddies). Next meeting on 12/5 will be caroling rehearsal. Caroling will take place at Heritage on 12/15 at 2 PM.
- Robotics signup form went out for 4th/5th graders (shifting schedule earlier this year) Nov 26-April 8. Club will meet Monday afternoons 3:15-4:45. Signup forms due by Friday. More parent volunteers needed. April 7 will be robotics annual challenge at Walsh Middle School - free event, open to the public.

School Committee – Fuller Middle School Project – Scott Wadland

- Presented video from Fuller School Building Committee on plan to replace Fuller.
- Framingham has been working on this for six years. Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has approved a \$39.5 million grant to do this project with FPS. FPS has been turned away multiple times previously for funding (MSBA only funds 8-10% of projects per year). If Framingham passes this up, we will lose significant funding opportunity.
- Fuller is in disrepair and a significant expense to the city per year for maintenance. Additionally, it was built as a high school and not designed properly for its current use. Also it is not properly insulated, and there is a huge moisture problem below the school – the floor beams are caving in and there have to be a hundred temporary

jacks to keep the school in place. Not ADA compliant in the least. Doesn't meet current structural codes. Contains hazardous material, old systems, etc.

- Cost to renovate existing building to appropriate standards (without new plan or support of MSBA) would be \$131 Million
- New plan is designed as a STEAM School.
- Total cost is \$98.3 million/State would fund \$39.5 million. Vote on December 11 will be needed to approve debt exclusion (average household will most likely need to pay \$100 extra per year over 20 years). After the new school is built, this will free up some \$\$ for other needed school maintenance projects – currently all of that money is being poured into Fuller due to its extensive maintenance needs.
- Two year construction project. If funded, the new middle school will open in 2020 school year.

Motion to Approve Minutes – SaRah Bowers

- The October 2018 PTO meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board.

The meeting was called to a close at 8:30 PM by SaRah Bowers.

The next PTO meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 5 at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria, along with Potter Road Family Night.