

# MINUTES

## Potter Road Elementary School PTO

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*Date | time* 2/13/2019 6:30 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Jaime Cesar and Jasmine Laffin

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### Welcome – Jaime Cesar and Jasmine Laffin

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- SaRah BoweRs (president) was out of town, Jaime and Jasmine stepped in to run meeting.
- The minutes from January's meeting were approved.

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### Administration Report – Larry Wolpe

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- Testing for hundreds of English learners is complete, the focus is now on the MCAS season. Currently working on the National Association of Educational Progress testing, as Potter was randomly selected by NAPE. This will take place on March 4<sup>th</sup>; parents can opt out of their children being part of it (they would have already heard if their children were selected to be part of it). Massachusetts historically does very well with the testing.
- Patriot's Pride was fun for everyone involved, and the friendly wagers were enjoyed.
- World read-out-loud day was recently celebrated, many guest readers took part within the classrooms.
- The winter concert was a great success.
- Outside of Mr. Wolpe's office is a love-o-meter, as this month's theme at Potter is compassion and empathy. Students have written kind messages and compliments to each other.
- A sneaker drive is starting for PE students. Any sized gently used children's sneakers can be brought in so that all children can participate in PE.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys have been promoting themselves in a video, and would like to organize a campaign to make stress kits for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, as they feel academically stressed. They have been very involved researching, and are working on ideas to raise funds for the kits.

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### Committee Reports

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- Sweetheart Dance – Lisa Derosa
  - 447 tickets were sold, only 8 families had to be turned down. Early and frequent communication helped with alleviating ticket complaints before they started. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, opening the gym made it not feel as crowded, and karaoke was a big hit. Most families purchased three or four tickets, showing it is a definite family event. We will continue to open it to all grades and families, without limits. Parents were pleasantly surprised all treats were free. This event is not intended to be a fundraiser, but rather a family event.
- Fundraising – Jaime Cesar and Jasmine Laffin
  - Two Unos fundraisers are coming up, Tuesday 02/19 and Thursday 03/07. Mooyah fundraiser will be Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - There will be a family book exchange/swap and pot luck on Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup>, which is also the night of the April PTO meeting. Instead of having an auction an April, a raffle similar to one at the Pumpkin Fair will run during the book swap family event. A sign up genius will be sent out for help getting raffle prizes from local businesses.
  - The last Cookie Walk was a great success, will most likely happen again during Fine Arts Night, and possible the end of the year picnic too.
  - The Fun Run is coming up, T-shirts with our logo are being designed.
- Square 1 Art – Susan Migliorisi
  - All art will be shipped mid-February, parents will be able to order from catalogs in March.

- Kindergarten Tours
  - Sign up genius will come out shortly for the Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup> tours at 1:30pm and 6pm. Adults will be leading the tours this year instead of students, and having families that are part of the two-way program would be excellent.
- Lego League – Kevin Harris
  - The league will meet on Wednesdays this year, and starts after February vacation. Additional coaches are wanted.
- Box Tops, Stop & Shop, Amazon – Michelle Lund
  - In October 6,000 Box Tops had been collected, by January another 2,000 had been collected. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the contest are all very close. \$666 raised as of December, with another \$300 submitted since then. Stop & shop has earned \$903 for the year. The Amazon total seems lower than it should be (\$458 since September) – will check into the link on Amazon’s page to be sure it’s working correctly.
- BOKS
  - Coaches are needed for BOKS, forms will be going home shortly. If a parent coaches their child automatically can participate. This is a larger lottery as only 40 children can be part of the program. Students enjoy it so much they are “playing” BOKS are recess!
- Dream Big Arcade Club
  - This is a new club for grades 3-5, and is run by SAGE teacher Leigh Moore. They will be meeting to design and build arcade games, which will be put out at the end of the year picnic. 23 students joined.
- Bus Driver and Staff Appreciation
  - There was a very good turnout this year for the bus driver appreciation breakfast, it all went very well.
  - The staff appreciation lunch will be May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Robotics League – Kevin Harris
  - 23 students are participating, and there is enough equipment for all students. The next challenge will be April 7<sup>th</sup> at Walsh Middle School. There is very creative thinking happening, the students have been modifying what they are working with without a book or manual. A shadow will be needed for next year as it will be Kevin’s last year running the club. It meets Mondays at 3:30.

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#### Treasurer’s Report – Kevin Harris

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- Sweetheart Dance – final number coming soon; it is not a fundraiser, but a fun event.
- Restaurant fundraisers – \$488.71, a little less than last year. (This year less were planned and new places were picked.)
- Amazon – behind quite a bit, link will be checked. Sending reminders to use the link may be helpful.
- Four new microphones have been purchased for the sound system for the stage / cafeteria, the rest of the equipment is on its way.
- A vote was taken to for the PTO to donate up to \$500 to the district for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> grade district wide field trip to the Boston Symphony Orchestra. This is a great opportunity for all students to see Boston and experience the BSO as not all kids have had the opportunity to have ever been to Boston before. Dr. Tremblay is working on equal equity across schools to allow for each student to be able to go. This trip is funded by district (all transportation will be charter buses as school buses will need to be back in Framingham for afternoon routes). As of now there is a \$1,388 deficit district wide (for no student needing to pay anything). Our PTO has the means and ability to assist with the deficit, if there still is one after additional contributions come in. The PTO voted yes for the \$500 donation.

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## Closing Information

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- The March meeting will be at PRS, not an outside venue. Gabby Oliveira will share what she has learned from her research about the two-way program, and will also bring food. The remainder of this year's meetings will be at the school – perhaps next year off site meeting may take place.
- The Director of Safety and Security came to PRS to see the ongoing parking / drop off / pick up safety issues are on Griffin and Turner Roads. Changes to signs may be made, along with other possible actions. Parking in the back lot has been a safety issue lately as well.
- Idea for information from school council meetings to be shared during PTO meetings was brought up. Perhaps the info could be mixed into the administrator's reports.

The next PTO meeting will take place **Wed. March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at PRS.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.