

## **PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 7:30PM**

Executive Board voted on Business Membership fee of \$75 per PTA Business Membership  
Sponsorship info would appear on PTA website  
11 executive members approved

### **Meeting Open and Welcome Remarks**

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:35PM

Christina Walsh (Co-President) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Mentioned that some people could not attend the meeting since it was the same night as the "Companion Movie" screening

### **Teachers' Reports**

#### **Mrs. Landman (K-3 Teacher Report)**

- Thank you to the organizers of Pasta Night (5th grade fundraiser)
- Mentioned that teachers and students loved "Cultivate Kindness" assembly. It was inspiring and children really got the message of "spreading the seed" of kindness.
- Kindergartners have been going to the computer lab to learn keyboards and using computers, as most children are used to using tablets
- Thanksgiving recital is next week
- 1st Grade - to celebrate Thanksgiving, each class hosts an activity and the children circulate from classroom to classroom to do crafts in different rooms. In December, they will learn about "Holidays Around the World" and learn about different cultures and traditions.
- 2nd Grade - focusing on volunteering and non-fiction books
- Also, noticing that children who started modules in kindergarten are doing very well with "mental math"

#### **Mrs. Crimarco - (Grades 4-6 Teachers Report)**

- District - participated in Mock Election with Youth Leadership Initiative. K-12 participated by voting for President and Senators. They logged in and voted and were told not to talk about their votes. The results were reviewed across the district. Children were very excited about the process and could not wait to get the results. Results could be broken down by classes, grades, etc.
- The Circus - 5th Grade - participating in the circus performance. All grades participating in learning circus activities during PE. Performance to take place at McKenna, it was phenomenal last year
- MAGNET : Mrs. Tand -- all of their lessons are revolving around STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math). Mrs. Dano added that they are piloting STEAM. They designed a house like the "3 Little Pigs" and tested their structures with a fan (wolf) created and worked together in groups. Mrs. Tand posting projects on Twitter
- Mrs. Crimarco pointed out that children are so into Independent Reading that she needed to assign specific days to students. Children now have several choices and can pick books at their own levels and are really enjoying it

Mrs. Dano mentioned that non-fiction reading and CC based reading has really been a focus. District purchased a lot of reading materials, and children working on reading and writing workshops.

District now looking at Common Core now that we have been living with it for a few years

Mrs. Landman has noticed a higher level of vocabulary due to the "love of reading" this year

### **Principal's Report - Mrs. Dano**

- Discussed that they have several sources to inform parents/students about school events and news. FF E-News (it is emailed and appears on the Principal's page), includes district and school news and PTA events. Compiling a list of 5th and 6th grade "transition" info and events
- FF appeared in South Bay four times in recent months. The district website and FF website are a great way to let you know what is going on inside FF walls
- A big thank you for the "Fairfield Fence" tribute to the NYPD for Sgt. Tuozzolo funeral. It looked amazing and a big thank you to all parents and students who worked on the fence.
- Mrs. Gerhardt spoke about Arts in Ed and "Mad Machines" that the 6th grade is working on

Question: Kathleen Romano asked why Fairfield was the only school in the district that did not enter the Islander Contest.

Mrs. Dano responded:

- So many agencies and organizations send us info and we can not participate in all
- PTA Does so much at our school, no need to get more events at this time

### **Approval of the minutes**

Candace Averso approved minutes, seconded by Ilene Hellman

### **Treasurer's Report -Tara Tarasi**

- Starting balance: 18,390.76
- Ending Balance: 15,097.27

### **President's Report - Sheila Grauling**

- Red Ribbon Week - Thank you to Kim Mueller and Laura Lucchi for coordinating "Paws" for the students to fill out. We had Cultivating Kindness assembly with Rich Specht on Friday, 10/28, which was very well received.
- Fairfield day at the Jets - Thanks to Candace Averso who coordinated the Jets vs. Rams game on 11/13. 23 tickets were sold.
- Cirque du Jour/Arts in Ed - Thanks to Nalini Hayes, Lisa Mildeberger and Randi Jankowski who have been working with the circus workshops at the school this week. 5th grade performance is 11/18 at McKenna.
- Picture retake day is on Monday, 11/21
- Holiday Fair 11/29-12/2, volunteers needed
- PTA Membership currently at 411 members
- Next PTA Meeting is Monday, 1/9 at 9:45 AM

### **Committee Chair Reports**

#### **Spelling Bee - Ilene Hellman**

- Spelling Bee will take place on Monday in the classrooms
- Last chance to register is tomorrow, 11/17
- Students who are participating should have their "study lists" by now
- Once they have classroom winners they will move on to the grade level spelling bee during recess
- A lot more students participating this year due to new structure
- Ilene put together detailed folders for the teachers
- East Lake - Ilene talked with contacts at East Lake and they set up a spelling bee for the first time this year for 5th and 6th grades

#### **6th Grade Mad Science - Nalini Hayes**

- Scheduled to meet with Mrs. Gerhardt on 12/12

- Budget - \$920
- Date approved
- Room secured
- Motion to approve: Candace Averso, motion seconded by Kelly Rowland

**Parent/Son Event - Nicole Gugliemi and Kim Mueller**

- Self-funded event
- Date: Friday, 1/27/17, Time: 7-9pm
- Game Trucks booked - each game truck can hold 30 children
- Booked DJ
- Ilene Hellman motion to approve, Kathleen Romano seconded the motion

**Sweetheart Dance - Jenn DeSousa and Stacey Lessne**

- Date - 2/10, Self funded event
- Secured Berner, Booked DJ and Caterers
- Motion to approve: Gina Speciale and Candace Averso seconded the motion

**Mixed Bags - Christina Walsh**

- Goal: Successful fundraiser, \$2,800 minimum in sales
- Coordinate with rep/vendor
- Orders have to be in by 3/31, start 3/1
- Kelly Rowland motion to approve, Candace Averso seconded the motion
- Kathleen Romano pointed out that you need to stick with a strict timeline in order to get the orders in time for Mother's Day

**Book Fair - Karalynne Esposito and Julia Santiago**

- Setup date - 1/30, Book Fair starts 1/31
- Order books and coordinate volunteers
- Anticipating doing very well this year due to reading focus and independent reading
- Ilene Hellman - motion to approve and Kathleen Romano seconded the motion

Kathleen Romano and Ilene Hellman mentioned to Mrs. Crimarco and Mrs Dano how much they liked Mrs. Clark's (4th grade) reading menu. Children really enjoy it and it makes reading and writing fun.

**New Business**

- Sheila Grauling mentioned we are not doing Casino Night going to use venue for Paint Night
- Harlem Wizards - 3/30, still needs a chair, still recruiting
- Stephanie O'Hara is handling the Wellness Fair and Fun Run in June

Christina Walsh closed meeting and thanked everyone for attending

**Attendees:**

Tara Tarasi, Kathleen Romano, Ilene Hellman, Christina Walsh, Traci Lorenz, Jennifer Klein, Diana Easteadt, Kim Gonzalez, Katrina McGrath, Kristine Knapp, Stephanie O'Hara, Gina Speciale, Jennifer McGovern, Theresa Alini, Suzanne Surra, Lori Dorsi, Kelly Rowland, Stephanie O'Hara, Maureen Romano, Tatum Salembier, Candace Averso, Christina Walsh, Sheila Grauling, Mrs. Landman, Mrs. Crimarco, Mrs. Dano, Mrs. Gerhardt