

PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 2018

Meeting Open and Welcome Remarks

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:08 PM

Christina Walsh opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She opened with a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the January meeting. Motion to approve Maureen Romano and seconded by Diana Misita

Teacher's Report

Mrs. Crimarco and Mrs. Landman

Thank you for everyone's efforts for the book fair. It was very helpful to have so many volunteers, especially for the younger children.

Mrs. Landman

- Kindergarten is looking forward to the 100th Day of School.
- Kindergarten has really enjoyed going to specials this year. This is the first year that they go to art & music.
- 1st Grade working on "Kindness Matters"
- Kindergartners and 2nd grade working on STEAM - engineering to solve problems and working on lessons of teamwork

Mrs. Crimarco

- 4th Grade loved Journeys. Mrs. Crimarco was sorry she missed it this year due to the flu
- Thank you for the book fair. Mrs. Crimarco said it was the best book fair in many years

Principal's Report

Mrs. Dano

- Mrs. Dano pointed out that there was a shift in days for the book fair due to Bond vote and thanked all the volunteers for the quick set-up. She was really impressed with the volunteers and how they were consciously looking through all boxes to make sure appropriate books were out and not too many toys
- Christina Walsh shared the note that they sent a lot of hardcover books this year and may make note to send more paperbacks next year. Also pointed out that we are an ENL school and noticed that a child was looking for graphic novels. It was difficult to find something that worked. Maybe next year involve ENL teachers in selecting a few books. Mrs. Dano asked to be reminded next year about this.
- Ilisa Polansky asked Mrs. Dano about asbestos removal - We received an email about removal, will there be more? Mrs. Dano responded saying it is an old building and there may be more removal dates. It is done outside school days.
- Mrs. Landman pointed out that her classroom was the first little schoolhouse. For the 90th Anniversary people took tours.
- Ilisa Polansky asked when the time capsule was put in. Mrs. Dano said she would find out.
- Tara Tarasi asked a question on grading - should points be taken off for not writing square units. Mrs. Dano and Mrs. Crimarco responded by saying that it depends on the assignment, if it is a math test or assignment should be labeling square units. Mrs. Dano pointed out that it has to be consistent, stressing the labels.
- Christina Walsh mentioned that she was trying to find homework on Engage NY and homework was missing. She found everything else, except that homework. Mrs. Dano said that our district has spent a lot of time making revisions and sometimes what Engage has may have different problems. Our district does modify some of the problems. It is ok to do the work with different problems or get homework from a friend, do not worry about what the copy looks like, as long as work is done the teacher should be ok with it.

- Sheila Grauling asked what the custodial staff is using to disinfect the classrooms? Mrs. Dano said the custodial staff is informed each time they get a notification that there is a child in a class out sick with flu, strep, etc. and then they go into class and spray all surfaces and clean with Virex.
- Mrs. Dano also reminded everyone that children need to stay home and recover. She reviewed the basics - Fever free for at least 24 hours without motrin or medication. When children are sick they need to stay home. And health office needs to be notified when your child is sick.
- Ilisa Polansky pointed out that they need to eliminate perfect attendance awards. Mrs. Dano said that is a BOE Award.

Treasurer's Report

Kathleen unable to attend. Christina Walsh presented.

- Opening balance as of \$26,647.50
- Closing balance as of \$35,387.94
- Motion to accept Tara Tarasi and seconded by Maureen Romano

President's Report

Sheila Grauling

- Thanks to Karalynne Esposito and Julia Santiago for chairing the book fair it was a great success. The PTA gifted each student with a \$5 gift certificate to ensure every student was able to purchase at least one book. Thanks to Mrs Dano and Mrs. Gerhard and Mrs. DeLilla in helping to accommodate the last minute change in schedule.
- Our PARP program ended on Friday, February 2nd, we are awaiting final tallies on class and student winners and we should have the winners soon.
- Our current membership is 413

Corresponding Secretary Report

Ilisa Polansky

Thank you for the Journeys program for 4th grade

Curriculum Committee Report

Sheila Grauling presented info

- Committee met on 11/21
- They are collecting info on math modules
- There was a question regarding benchmarking reading levels
- Question on field trips and possible committee

Mrs. Dano addresses some of the questions:

- Math Modules - District is in the process of reviewing current modules and seeing if there is anything better out there. Toni Ann Summers is in charge of the process.
- Benchmark reading levels - children are tested a few times a year to assess reading levels. This provides us with a certain amount of info to let us help them progress. We have used this system for many years, way before the new report cards.
- Younger grades use Foundations. Grammar and Foundations built into lessons in all grades in different ways. We did not find spelling tests useful. A child who didn't know how to spell a word on Monday would memorize it during the week for the test on Friday and then forget it by Friday afternoon. We find it more helpful to have them read and grammar embedded all year. Teaching skills through reading and writing.

Q: Sheila Grauling asked if the students are corrected on their grammar?

A: Mrs. Dano responded not necessarily, depends on the assignment. Mrs. Dano pointed out that she taught 3rd grade for a long time. There are certain words that are commonly misspelled - because, their vs. there.

Tara Tarasi and Sheila both commented that they think spelling and grammar are important. Mrs. Crimmarco said that if they spell something wrong on a SS test, points will not necessarily be taken away.

Discussion also came up about math facts - not teaching memorization as much, but teaching how to get to the answer. Mrs. Gerhard pointed out that children use Fast Math and they are trying to teach fact fluency.

Field Trip Committee - Mrs. Dano addressed by saying she has confidence in her staff to select field trips which are then discussed with her. They are curriculum based, and decisions are also based on finances, time restrictions and supervision requirements.

New Business

Girls on the Run - Doreen Dunne

- Doreen is a parent alumni of Fairfield with current 6th and 7th graders
- She brought "Girls on the Run" program to FF and now is the Director for GOR LI
- Girls on the Run meets 2xs a week
- Teaches confidence and teamwork
- Need 2 coaches for Spring season for FF - 2 day commitments, 90 minutes each day. Coaches pick days
- At the end of the season they run a 5K - it is a great day
- Doreen would like to find FF parents to volunteer, we can get volunteers from the community
- Had 18 total teams last year
- 2/12 - registration opens
- \$190 for season - cost includes 20 lessons, shirt, \$5K medal and water bottle
- Don't have to be a parent to coach - teachers, high school students, etc

Plan of Works

"Y-Ties" - Christina Walsh

- Selling \$5 for sneakers and \$6 for boots
- Sue Foran motion to approve and Ilene Hellman seconded

Arts in Ed - Nalini Hayes

- "Slime Time" - Kindergarten
- \$1,040 for 100 people
- Booked and confirmed
- February 26 and 27th
- Motion to accept Maureen Romano seconded by Ilene Hellman

Kid Stuff Books - Christina Walsh

- This year we did Kid Stuff books a little differently, sold late this year. In February it is \$15 vs. \$25 in September
- Didn't distribute books because it was a big deal to have everyone send back books
- Next year they are doing it online because competing with so many online coupons. Hoping to be an app on your phone
- Motion to approve Tara Tarasi and seconded by Maureen Romano

Upcoming Events

Paint Night - Kelly Rowland

Thursday, February 15

Glam Night - Dawn Mollica and Loris Dorsi

Thursday, March 22

Mrs. Crimmarco asked about Glam donations. Box set up in her classroom. Class parents requested donations for their class theme. Each class got a theme. Donations optional, money already given at the beginning of the year, this is if you wanted to send additional donations.

Boys Day Out - Tara Tarasi

- Sunday, March 18 at LI Sports Complex
- 2 Time slots:
 - Grades K-2: 1-2:30 PM
 - Grades 3-5: 2:30 - 4 PM
- Fliers to go home tomorrow
- Plan to play dodgeball, baseball, etc.
- Other ideas were discussed i.e. Scavenger Hunt at LICM - it was too expensive, Rock Climbing - didn't fall under guidelines
- Motion to approve Maureen Romano and seconded by Sue Foran

Kindergarten Registration - Kelly Rowland

- Kindergarten registration taking place on March 1 & March 2
- Mrs. Dano asked everyone to remind parents with incoming Kindergartners
- Paperwork is filled out online and then brought in on those days notarized with proof of residency and medical and dental forms

PTA Council Meeting Updates

Sheila Grauling and Christina Walsh

- Windows are ordered and Mrs. Iconis is on it
- Fields were discussed and Pool is on the agenda for the May vote
- 2 Board seats are up

Nominating Committee

Ilene Hellman

- Forms were sent to PTA members to nominate for PTA Board positions for next school year
- There is info on the form about what each role requires
- Currently President, 1st VP and Recording Secretary will be vacant positions
- 2 year term
- Current officers need to send a letter of intent, but positions can be open also
- Nominating Committee: Ilene Hellman (Chair), Lisa Brzenski, Stephanie O'Hara, Sue Foran, Dawn Mollica
- Ilene explained that it would be great to get new parents

Meeting concluded 8:10 PM

Meeting Attendees

Maureen Romano, Tara Tarasi, Allison DeLuccia, Sue Foran, Diana Misita, Ilene Hellman, Sheila Grauling, Christina Walsh, Ilisa Polansky, Kelly Rowland, Tatum Salembier, Mrs. Crimmarco, Mrs. Landman, Mrs. Gerhard and Mrs. Dano