

Fairfield Elementary School
PTA Minutes – January Meeting

Kelly Rowland (co-president) opened the meeting at 9:50 am

- Introduction of PTA board members
- Donna Scheuer (co-president), Shelia Grauling (1st vice president), Alisha Grimm (recording secretary), Tatum Salembier (2nd vice president), Kathleen Romano (treasurer) & Ilisa Polansky (not present, corresponding secretary)

Teachers reports

Mrs. Crimarco – 4th grade teacher

- Announcement for Mrs. Dano. Mrs. Gerhardt received doctorate from St. Johns University and she is expecting baby #2. Mrs. Gerhardt will be taking a leave of absence. Terry Steinhower will be taking her place while she is on maternity leave. Mrs. Steinhower was AP for 9 years at Fairfiled.

Donna Scheuer announcement

- will be having two visitors at today's meeting
- School librarian, Mrs. Mitchell to talk about cyber security, cyber footprint and the role of the internet.

Doreen Dunne from “girls on the run”

- Former Fairfield elementary school parent.
- Director of “girls on the run”.
- Gave explanation of program
- Concerns girls in grades 3-5.
- Inspires them to be joyful happy and confident through games and lessons
- Girls will complete a noncompetitive 5k event at Hofstra university
- 20 lessons, 2x week including lessons on empathy, negative emotions & self-talk
- In need of volunteer coaches to deliver curriculum to the girls
- The program empowers young girls
- There is an activity component to the program
- The program gives you a curriculum to follow
- Program provides all the necessary materials
- Provide coach training to volunteers
- If anyone interested and has the time Donna left business cards
- The program has been around for 20 years, only on Long Island for 6 years
- Already at McKenna Elementary and Birch Lane Elementary

Dawn Mollica – why does the program start at 3rd grade

- Answer – The students really need to be able to sit in the setting. There is an actual curriculum. Grades 3-5 is the model that works.

- As a coach you get to design the days and times that work with your schedule if you are a coach you have that flexibility.
- Joyce Petricino is the program coordinator. She works out of Long Beach.

Mrs. Crimarco – when we had it here it was amazing, the whole school gets involved. Very nice program.

Donna Dunne

– last year we had 550 girls participate

Alisha Grimm – is there a cost for the program

Answer – yes, it is \$190 for 20 lessons

- We will provide financial assistance for any who need it. Based on household income. All coaches are first aid, cpr certified

Donna Scheuer – Mrs. Mitchell coming in around 10:15

Approval of November minutes – Motion to approve – Michelle Carol & Gina Speciale

Treasurers report – November and December.

- Hard copy attached

November meeting questions addressed by Kathleen Romano

- when activities happen not all the money comes in that month and not all expenses get paid out that month.
- More money came in in November for the October Halloween dance
- Boosterthon question addressed – the school brought in the money that students raised. The boosterthon company gets a portion of that to provide a program for the week. Boosterthon also gets a percentage of what the students raised
- All programs brought into the school get some percentage

Motion to approve budget – Maureen Romano & Cathy Bialous

Teachers report

- Mrs. Crimarco – thanks for staff luncheon
- 1st grade working is working with Mrs. Tand. Animals stay safe through camouflage is the month of January theme.
- 4th grade has upcoming journeys
-

Mrs. Gerhardt

- thank you to Mrs. Hellman for organizing spelling bee
- Spelling bee is growing more each year
- 1st grade working on arts in ed. Seeking our senses.
- New mad science the school hasn't used before

- 5th graders in health club. New York health club comes in and educates our students
- blood drive coming up

Shelia Grauling – correspondences for Ilisa Polansky

- Thank you for luncheon from staff
- Thank you holiday fair from staff

Shelia Grauling, 1st vice president report –

- Thank you to Mrs. Hayes for submerged story telling
- Thank you to Ms. Romano for teacher staff luncheon
- Spelling bee, mad science, journeys and PARP kickoff this month

Mrs. Hellman, reflections

- 3 students advancing to NY state from Nassau county
- One finalist in visual arts
- Congrats to all children
- End of April we find out next results.
- There will be Nassau county Reflection's receptions.
- At the end of the school year there is an art show and trophy ceremony for all who participated.
- 24 participants in the school

Tatum Salembier, 2nd vice president report

- Randi Jankowski plan of work for school supply lists
- Detailed plan of work

Motion to approve – Candace Verso & Michelle Carol

Jackie LaBarbara – Entertainment coupon book

- the books are \$25
- Easiest to order online, the books directly sent to the house
- School gets half of the book cost
- You can download the app and search and coupon pops up
- Due date is Friday November 25th, ends November 28th.

Kathleen Romano- is it a choice for the phone app or the book?

Jackie Labarbera - you get both the book and can download the app

Shelia Grauling - curriculum report from Tracey Lorenz (not present)

- Will wait on that

Joanna Cepregi

- I have questions about the curriculum and what's been going on in the classroom.

Mrs. Gerhardt – please direct questions to me

Tatum Salembier

- book fair is January 23rd-25th and there will be an evening session on January 23rd

Maureen Romano – when is setup?

Shelia Grauling – in morning on January 22nd

- Class parents should help and volunteer during the book fair

Dawn Mollica – last year the night time was open to public, is it the same?

Kathleen Romano – yes, it is

Mrs. Mitchell (librarian)

- Introduction
- A lot of fun in library
- I do 1st grade lunch duty
- feel free to email with any questions
- we are focusing on digital citizenship, which affect every age level
- cyber bullying, online safety, plagiarism. We have to talk about that now. Kids have chromebooks and have the power to go on google. Kids have access to world book online, which is an encyclopedia
- elementary school is where habits are being formed
- pebblego, world book online (k-2)
- Grades 3-5 parents - Log on to library folder, kids can show you what they do in school.

Log into google drive in library folder.

- Kids made digital footprints
- Talking about what is the internet, what does that mean to them.
- Grades 4&5 - we video commonsense media
- There are great resource that we use to teach the parents what is on the internet.
- We do coding in library – www.code.org.

Shelia Grauling – are you still doing makerspace

- Incorporating into library classes.
- How often – once every 5 weeks
- cmitchell@msd

Dawn Mollica – is there a reason why they took the makerspace away

Mrs. Gerhardt – it was a district wide decision. The district wanted to incorporate it more in library than a club so every student got involved.

Donna Scheuer – Family Fun Night

- there was glitch with dates.
- More information to come.
- Looking for volunteers
- Working out details of date and place
- Using same people as last year.

Kathleen Romano- upcoming events

- Tentative ice skating – need a chair for that committee. Anyone wants help set it up.
- Need ideas for fund raisers.
- May 18th – Long Island ducks game

Donna Scheuer – Mrs. Festa has pneumonia. She apologizes for not being here. No report. Next Board of Education meeting is January 17th.

Questions, comments?

Donna Scheuer - attend a council meeting once a month to meet with Mrs. Iconics.

They are always looking for us to present them with questions. Please let us know if you have any questions to bring to her.

Sweetheart dance is scheduled for April 5th

Donna Scheuer – one more person to volunteer for nominating committee

- Michelle Carol

Gift baskets are being scattered between different events. Instead of all at one event.

Donna Scheuer closed the meeting at 10:45 am