

PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Commenced at 7:13PM with the Pledge of Allegiance
Minutes of May 19, 2016 meeting approved by Randi Jankowski

Welcome Remarks

Christina Walsh and Sheila Grauling– Welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and then introduced the PTA Board.

Introduction of PTA Board

- Sheila Grauling: Co-President
- Christina Walsh, Co-President
- Tara Ferrara, Corresponding Secretary
- Tara Tarasi, Treasurer (unable to attend)
- Tatum Salembier, Recording Secretary

Teacher's Report: Mrs. Landman (Grades K-3)

- Welcomed everyone back and said everyone is off to a great beginning
- The children are working hard. They are working on writer's and reader's workshop
- Welcomed Mrs. Crimarco as the new upper grade rep (4-6)
- Thanked PTA for Welcome Back Staff Luncheon

Teacher's Report: Mrs. Crimarco (Grades 4-6)

- Children are off to a great start
- The children are working on Reader's and Writer's Workshops
- Beginning Science and Social Studies lessons
- Thanked PTA for Welcome Back Luncheon

Principal's Report: Mrs. Dano

Mrs. Dano welcomed everyone back and said year is off to a great start

- **Drills** - Discussed the Mandatory drills that the school has been conducted since the year began
 - Shelter Drill
 - Lockdown Drill
 - Evacuation Drills
 - Fire Drills
 - Their goal is the evacuate within 1 minute 40 seconds, by the second day of school they evacuated in 1 minute 50 seconds
- **Back to School Night** - Great chance to see and meet and greet with parents
- **Staff Changes** - 23 staff changes at Fairfield due to retirees, maternity leaves, new permanent subs, teacher transfers, new T.A.s, teacher transfers to different grades, new social worker
- Many classrooms rejuvenated and are including libraries to promote a love of literacy
- **Social Media** - Follow Mrs. Dano and other MSD staff on twitter. A list will be generated to include those staff members that use Twitter so that people can follow

Questions to Mrs. Dano

Tatum Salembier commented/expressed concern about the Lockdown drills on the same day the children learned about/observed September 11/Patriot Day. Mrs. Dano assured that the children were well prepared and were talked through the lockdown drills.

Julia Santiago asked Mrs. Dano why the 4th Graders or older grades do not walk in the Halloween parade and would she reconsider. Mrs. Santiago also pointed out that the current 4th Graders did not participate in the Halloween Parade in their kindergarten year, due to Sandy. Mrs. Dano explained that the older grades are the audience/spectators and that she would not change her mind.

Tara Ferrara asked Mrs. Dano about the rules and guidelines for posting children's pictures on Social Media, i.e. Twitter, Facebook, etc.

Mrs. Dano explained that there is a document to fill out from MSD if you would not like your child's picture posted

Treasurer's Report (Presented by Christina Walsh in Tara Tarasi's absence)

- The Audit Committee met on 7/15/16 to review and audit the PTA's budget
- Balance \$11,844.62
- Sheila Grauling made a motion to approve; Debbie Villardi seconded the motion to approve the Audit and proposed Budget
- Randi Jankowski questioned why there was a \$1,000 line item for Picture Day
- Marie Festa questioned why Mary Keryck Scholarship is listed in the budget in 2 locations for \$100. Christina Walsh made a motion to remove one of the duplicates, and motion was seconded by Marie Festa

President's Report: Sheila Grauling and Christina Walsh

Christina Walsh reviewed meeting procedures that the PTA President would like to follow this year in order to conduct an orderly meeting. They will be following the "Robert's Rules of Order"

Christina and Sheila thanked the Chairs and Committees of the following events and fundraisers:

- Five Below Fundraiser - Ilene Hellman
- Long Island Ducks – Candace Averso
- Field Day – Kathleen Romano and Theresa Alini
- Staff Appreciation – Kathleen Romano and Gina Vitale
- Kid Stuff Books – Gina Vitale and Theresa Alini
- Kindergarten – Randi Jankowski
 - Coordinated volunteers and helped with kindergartners' lunch period to help them get acclimated.
 - "Boo-Hoo" Breakfast was very well received by parents

Upcoming events

- 10/13 – 6th Grade Comedy Night at the Brokerage Comedy Club
- 10/14 – Picture day
- 10/14 – Halloween Dance
- 10/17 – PTA meeting at 9:45Am and Breakfast with the Principal

BOE Report

Presented by Marie Festa from the September 8, 2016 meeting Board of Education Meeting

- The July and August Agenda and minutes are on the District website
- Discussion of Board Committee Chair people
 - Building and Grounds: Tim Taylor
 - Finance & Budget: Maryanne Fischer
 - Student Council = Joseph LaBella
 - Gary Baldinger was absent
- Enrollment: We have a total of 7,018 students as reported by our Superintendent of Schools, Lucille Iconis, with an incoming class of 489 Kindergarten students.
- "Maker-Space": Mrs. Iconis mentioned that in library students will now be spending 20% of their time on "Maker Space" in grades 1 to 6. They will be working in small groups to solve problems.
- Carman Road School Vote: Alan Adcock gave information regarding the vote on October 18 to sell Carman Road School – vote at your regular polling place
- New Field at Berner - Turf Field Update by the architects

They spoke about different types of artificial turf available. There are safety concerns including:

- Temperature of the surface
 - Injuries
 - Skin infections – MRSA
 - Chemical exposure – latex, allergies, etc.
 - There will also still be maintenance costs in the thousands
 - Marie Festa added that the community needs to focus on the turf field and be very careful about children playing on the artificial turf
 - There are so many different kinds of turf
 - A “Turf Committee” is being put together
- New Safety measures: As per the Bond Issue and new safety measures all classroom locks were replaced and the security vestibules are completed

Mrs. Dano added to the report by clarifying that classroom door locks were replaced so teachers and staff could lock doors without a key, and there is the ability to lock with one master kept district wide

- Lucille Iconis stated regarding OPT OUT “What we put in place last year worked very well”
- Superintendent contract was increased and annuities increased and extended to June 2020

Marie Festa also reminded the group that SEPTA has calendars and water bottles available for purchase

PTA Membership Update

Tara Ferrara reported on PTA Membership

- 218 members as of 9/17 meeting
- Can register online this year without a fee
- Reminded everyone that membership goes directly to the PTA to support events
- You can register yourself, family, children, neighbors, friends, etc.

Committee Reports

Back to School BBQ

Sheila Grauling presented in Jen Ram and Lucie Patterson’s absence

- Estimated 650 ppl attending
- Need more volunteers
- Contact Jen Ram and Lucie Patterson if you are available to help out
- Mrs. Dano reminded group, your child cannot meet you on the playground if you are a volunteer, the children need to be dismissed through their normal dismissal procedures if they are a “walker” and if they are a “busser” please with a note to their teacher if their dismissal will be diff

Picture Day

Committee Chair: Jaime Stanton presented

- Responsibility is to coordinate with vendor, “Class Act” and parents
- Goal: Is for Picture Day to run smoothly
- Flyer will be distributed 9/30
- Picture Day will be 10/14
- Re-Take Day – 11/21
- Question: Will there be sibling pictures this year? Answer: No
- Christina Walsh motion to accept Plan of Work, Motion seconded by Theresa Alini

Halloween Dance

Event Chairs: Courtney Mullin Gialella and Kristen Malik presented

- 1st Halloween Dance – there will be a DJ, Photographer, Photo Booth, Pizza, Desserts (Donations)
- Proposed spending - \$4,000 (which is not considered \$ spent, hope to sell enough tickets to cover the cost and raise funds)

- 590 students in Fairfield and siblings and families invited to join
- \$10 per person
- Volunteer letter will be distributed 9/20. Volunteers must be a PTA member
- This is not a drop-off event
- Costumes encouraged
- Motion to accept plan of work, Motion 2nd by Deb Vilardi

Q: Does a volunteer count as a chaperone?

A: A volunteer needs to have another adult supervising their child during their time volunteering.

NY Jets Game

Event Chair: Candace Averso (Sheila Grauling presented Plan of work on Candace's behalf)

- Sunday, November 13 Los Angeles Rams vs. NY Jets
- Last year it turned out to be a great event
- There is not a bus going to the game
- Carpooling was suggested
- Sheila Grauling motion to approve, Theresa Alini seconded the motion

Reflections

Committee Chair: Ilene Hellman

- Deadline is 1 month earlier
- Collecting all projects and paperwork the week of October 24
- Rules and info will be distributed within the next 2 weeks
- Ilene will drop all paperwork and projects to Nassau County
- There is an award ceremony in the spring

Spelling Bee

Event Chair: Ilene Hellman

- Dates are still TBD
- May need to have earlier this year, prior to Christmas Break
- The Spelling Bee will not go as along
- Will have more info at next meeting

Blood Drive

Event Chair: Ilene Hellman

- Scheduled for 2/9
- Will meet with LI Blood Center
- Need class parent follow-up and involvement
- This event is still pending plan of work

Mrs. McGrath commented on how last year another local school also did blood drive the same day last year. Ilene Hellman explained that they try to coordinate with the LI Blood Center to avoid this, but cannot guarantee it

Spirit Wear

Committee Chairs: Karalynne Esposito and Nicole Guglielmi

- They will be selling at the Back to School BBQ available items for "cash and carry" or order forms available
- Due date: 10/7 for orders
- Fliers were distributed
- Product bought from a local vendor – New Wave on Front Street in Massapequa Park. Welcome to go to the store to try on sizes prior to ordering
- Theresa Alini – 2nd motion to approve

Harlem Wizards

- Chairperson(s) still needed
- Responsibilities will include:
 - Creating a flier
 - Coordinate tickets/attendance
 - Coordinate basketball referee
 - Help to form team to include parents and teachers
 - Raffle baskets

Debbie Villardi pointed out that it is a multifaceted event and would be best if there are multiple chairs to divvy up the responsibilities

Corresponding Secretary Report

Presented by Tara Ferrara

Read thank you letter from Mr. Cunha regarding Staff Luncheon

Closing Remarks

Christina Walsh and Sheila Grauling thanked everyone for attending

Asked that everyone stay involved and be involved

And they are very open to feedback – both positive and negative

Looking forward to a great year with great experiences

Meeting Attendees: Krista Dammaco, Danielle Mackey, Jennifer Klein, Diana Eastadt, Katrina McGrath, Theresa Alini, Tricia Santariello, Nalini Hayes, Courtney Mullin Gualella, Kristen Malik, Allison DeLuccia, Ilene Hellman, Gabrielle LaRosa, Katie Andreski, Julia Santiago, Katie McCauley, Stephanie O'Hara, Dawn Mollica, Deb Vilardi, Randi Jankowski, Eileen Driscoll, Cynthia Florio, Maria Hogan, Alison Reilly, Lisa Brezinski, Gina Vitale, Jamie Stanton, Lori Dorsi, Eileen Driscoll Curran, Marie Festa, Sheila Grauling, Christina Walsh, Tara Ferrara, Mrs. Dano, Mrs. Gerhardt, Mrs. Landman, Mrs. Crimarco