

MARLBOROUGH PTO

Marlborough Elementary School

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

PTO Minutes (Recorded by Karen Sawyer)

Call to Order

Kimberly DiSomma called meeting to order at 7:03 pm

In attendance

Kimberly DiSomma, Melissa Jordan, Jessica Roy, Marin Ranta, Karen Sawyer, Nancy Visco, Dan White, Kim Kelly, Heidi Campbell, Megan Lloyd, Karen Craig, Pam Farrington, Jessica Porteous

Reading of the Minutes

Karen Sawyer made a motion to dispose of the reading of the minutes. Melissa Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Presidents' Report

Spring Volunteer Form: The form is almost ready to be sent out we are just waiting to finalize the dates for the spring book fair. It was originally schedule for a week in May but there are a couple of early dismissal days that week so Brenda Bula is looking to see if she can move it to April.

Teacher Appreciation Week: Kimberly brought up that last year the PTO sponsored someone to come in and do chair massages for the teachers during Teacher Appreciation week, was this something we wanted to do again? Karen Craig said that although she didn't get to partake she heard only positive feedback from the teachers. She will check with the teachers but she thinks it would be something they would appreciate. Kimberly said it cost \$560 to have the massage therapist come in.

EET/Multicultural Day: Melissa Jordan reported that all the EET have been scheduled including PreK. Fourth grade is going to go with the Winding Trails outreach program, everyone else is using High Tech High Touch. For Multicultural day we have been trying to lock down The Griffin Academy to come in and do a presentation with their Irish Step Dancers. They said they were willing to do it but they haven't confirmed. Last contact was before Christmas. Karen Sawyer call on January 10 but hasn't heard anything either. We'll keep trying.

Tony Memmel Music Program: This was brought to us by Audrey Skorski. Tony is a singer-songwriter, speaker and clinician. Tony was born missing his left forearm and hand. Despite this challenge, he taught himself to play the guitar by constructing a self-made cast out of Gorilla Tape that secures a guitar pick to his arm. Barb Brandt who works with Tony sent an email proposing an enrichment program. She would like to bring musician Tony to the school for any combination of classroom visits, music instruction, and/or a guitar clinic, a school-wide assembly, and an additional performance for the community in the evening. This program can be a single day or multiple days. Tony would speak to the children and educators about his experience growing up with one hand, he would demonstrate his method of creating his "prosthetic" anew each time he plays guitar, and have a question and answer session with the

students. Some background: Tony works closely with host schools to develop customized programs that focus on overcoming adversity, vocational craftsmanship, artistic integrity, and entrepreneurial spirit. Barb Brandt is wondering if it's something that our school would be interested in.

Vice Presidents' Report

Nothing new to report. PTO Blasts still to be determined.

Secretaries' Report

Mrs. Gaulin thanked the PTO for the \$100 stipend for the teachers and our investment in the students. We also received a thank you for Colleen Gilpin, a grandparent of a MES student, for all that we do.

Treasurers' Report

Jessica Roy reported on items that had been paid out since the last meeting. There were 6 teacher reimbursements paid out for the 2016-17 school year totaling \$600. There were payouts for Scholastic totaling \$3,361.61 and the Wolfpack \$3,458. \$3,506.50 was paid out for EET for K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th grades, petty cash payouts for book fair and ice cream social (\$275 and \$100 respectively) and some minor expense for Trunk or Treat and the ice cream social. Remaining payouts were for paper statements. Total monies paid out since last meeting totaled \$11,498.71.

Deposits since last meeting totaled \$13,624.62. There were \$1,260 from Funds for Fun, \$5,490 in Wolfpack ticket sales, \$5,832.49 from the book fair, \$478.02 from the ice cream social and \$18.28 from AmazonSmile. The petty cash payouts for book fair and ice cream social (\$275 and \$100 respectively) were returned and about \$170 from parent contributions. There was a net activity of \$2,125.91.

The balance in the checking account is \$20,618.18 and the Certificate of Deposit had current balance of \$9,067.54.

Melissa Jordan motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, Kimberly DiSomma seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Principal/Assistant Principal Report

Dan said the hockey game was a lot of fun and they are in the process of loading a YouTube video of the kids holding the flag on the ice up on to the school's website. The new playground equipment is almost all in – it's been coming into the school in drips and drabs. Kim Kelley is looking for contact person at High Tech High Touch in case they are scheduled to come on a snow day/delay. The new playscape has been great with all the snow and rain – snow melts quickly and it is almost completely dry.

Teachers' Representatives Report

Karen Craig and Pam Farrington said the chair massages were appreciated. The sixth grade is still working on their EET. They will get that information to us as soon as they have it figured out.

Committee/Group Reports

Wolfpack: 370 tickets were sold and the PTO makes \$5 per ticket. Sales were a little slow at first but we were right around where we were last year. Kimberly said that we have a deal with the Music Dept. and we alternate years as to whether the money goes to the PTO general fund or is earmarked for the music dept. This year the music department will have \$1,850 to spend. Dan did say it would be great if the kids that are participating in the flag holding and singing didn't have to be in the upper levels for so long – they wait about 45 minutes. After a while kids are leaning over the rails and start getting a little out of control.

Giving Tree: Tracey Cory said it was really well received. She made up 50 leaves and all of them were taken. She will follow up with the specials teachers to make sure they have received their items.

Winter Book Fair: Nancy Visco reported that over \$9,883 was collected. The PTO decided to take the all cash option which results in \$2,470.82 for the PTO. Nancy also has set tentative dates for 2017 winter book fair from Nov. 27 to Dec. 1.

Box Top Update: Nancy Visco said the next contest will end February 10 and the winner will be announced on February 24th. We received over \$1,600 from the May and October 2016 contests.

Boston RedSox Update: Nothing good to report. Carrie Packer has been communicating with the RedSox and thought we were set with a June 24th date but it is no longer available. The other dates they have available don't really work so this isn't going to happen this year. Marin suggested contacting the Norwich team if we still wanted to do some kind of baseball event.

Teacher Appreciation Flower: Jessica Porteous says she is looking for a few people to help out with this. The flowers used to be done by MEF but they disbanded last spring so the PTO agreed to take it over. The flowers are scheduled to be distributed to the teachers on Tuesday, May 2. They will need a couple of people the Monday night from about 7 to 9 pm to help put the bouquets together and then they will need people to help distribute them to the teachers on Tuesday. Leann Eppinger will be handling all the details she'll just need a few folks to help her out. Jessica said there was a small profit made but that wasn't the focus of the sale.

Trivia Night: Karen Sawyer said she has talked to both Angelico's and the trivia company and we just need to finalize the date. We are looking at either March 10th or 11th. Most people were in favor of doing it on Friday, less conflict with kids events. Karen will solidify the date with Angelico's and WhatTrivia. Dan White did mention that UCONN's Men's Basketball might be playing but it will be impossible to find a weekend where something isn't going on. Karen said we are not going to do all the auction stuff, it will be primarily just the trivia but we might still have some items. Dr. Gallagher has already offered to help out. Ticket price per person will probably be around \$10 to \$20 per person. All these things will get nailed down in the next couple of weeks.

Movie Night: Kimberly is meeting with Robin Kniep and Jen Wall to discuss what movie we want to show. Movie night has been set for March 31st. Pam Farrington said that we don't need to choose the movie this far out. Megan Lloyd said we just need to be conscience of the rating, PG-13 movies might be too scary for some of the younger kids.

New Business

Kimberly was approached by someone from MYAL about helping out with the cost of repairing the floor in the community room. MYAL is willing to contributing about a third of the cost and

is looking to the school and other community groups to help out. Dan White said he just had a conversation with Dr. Sklarz about this and he said the school has about \$3,000 they could contribute to this effort. The town feels the community room is the school responsibility to maintain and will not contribute to the repair even though it is used by the town and town collects usage fees from other groups. Kimberly asked Megan Lloyd if she would bring it to the Lion's Club. Megan said she would and that maybe the Josh LeJuene committee within the Lions Club could help too. Dan received a quote from the company that re-did the floor in the gym for \$10,950. It would take 3 days to patch the hole and refinish the floors and then 4 days to cure. Dan said he'd prefer the PTO not fund the remaining third, we can chip in if they fall short.

Adjournment –Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm

Next Meeting: March 8th @ 7:00