

January 8, 2019

PTO MEETING MINUTES

---

1. Introductions

In attendance: Michele Cote (Principal), Danielle Bevins (President), Karen Fetters (Vice President), Allison Lafferty (Grants), Sarah Oliveira (Treasurer), Stephanie Fournier (Secretary), Amy Carnesale, Andi Higbee (Bottle Hut), Stephanie Sowles, Angela Hardy, Julie Faas

2. Principals Update – Michele Cote

Ms. Cote shared that the school would be having SBAC interim assessment in Math and LA to practice protocol and expectations which would take 3 hours of the school day on January 9th. On Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> there will be a team coming to the district to observe classes to assess Quality standards and give feedback. Michele Cote was planning to request the school board funding for 2 new teachers to keep teacher:student ratios at an acceptable level for next year.

3. Financial Update – Sarah Oliveira reported that our current balance is \$6,222.82. Income included bottle hut redemption (3 deposits totaling \$700) and the school dance (profit \$1278). Expenses included the speaker John Halligan Speaker (\$1600), dance expense (\$90), Odyssey of the Mind school membership (\$135).

4. Bottle Hut Update-Andi Hige/Peter Walsh – Nothing new to report, all is going well. Andi continues to collect bottles on the weekends and Peter covers the week days.

5. Box Top Update – Karen Fetters

- a. Karen received a check for \$539.10 for last box top submission.
- b. Agreed to have a class competition to see who could bring in the most Box Tops for a 1 week period between Feb 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. This date was selected so that we could meet the next submission deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup>. The reward could be given on April 10<sup>th</sup> although Karen will talk with Michele Cote to see if there are any dates closer to the end of the competition. The reward will be movie and popcorn for the winning class. Essex Movie theater will be approached for popcorn donation.

6. Old Business

- a. PTO sponsored Dance – feedback
  - i. Overall the PTO felt the dance went well and was well attended. We were able to get enough chaperones although it does take work right before the dance to get all chaperones checked for chaperone form.
  - ii. Request was made that at dances the students are reminded about the rules that they cannot leave before the end of the dance and also request that no one takes videos of others while dancing.
  - iii. Also a good idea to advertise Open gym since many that attend have a good time in there and don't dance.
- b. Update PTO website – Stephanie Fournier

- i. PTO website has been updated with this year's meeting dates, contact information and meeting minutes. Stephanie will continue to keep website updated.
  - c. Lake Monsters Fundraiser Update
    - i. PTO agreed that they will participate this year and Angela Hardy volunteered to coordinate this fundraiser.
- 7. Grants- Allison Lafferty
  - a. Feedback on Speaker (John Halligan, Re: Cyber bullying) PTO sponsored half the cost to bring this speaker in December. All feedback on this speaker was positive and everyone felt that he was fantastic! Michele Cote shared that the kids were well behaved and engaged during the speaker during the day. The speaker was also well attended by parents in the evening and PTO suggested that it may be worth opening this up to the entire district in the future. The school plans to bring him back every 3 years since the topic of cyber bullying is important especially for this age group.
  - b. New Grant requests
    - i. Angela Hardy presented a grant request from her Lego robotics team that was made up of 3 MBS students and 3 CMS students to help with the cover the cost to attend the World Championship in Detroit, estimated at \$10,000. It was agreed to give them \$400 from the PTO. It was estimated that the bottle hut brings in \$300-500 per month and instead of having them collect bottles for a month which is something Odyssey of the Mind teams have done in the past the PTO felt this would be better than disrupting current collection system. PTO was very interested in learning more about the Lego teams so more students could participate in the future and encouraged them to reach out so that information could be distributed for next year.
- 8. New Business
  - a. Teacher Appreciation Week Events planned for 1<sup>st</sup> week in May. PTO plans to do similar events as previously done which will include Breakfast on Tuesday and Cinco de Mayo Luncheon on Friday. Donations for both of these will be done via sign-up genius. PTO has requested that Michele survey the teachers to see if there is anything specific they want this year. Last year we funded furniture and wall hangings for the staff room. One possibility is to replace the chairs in that room around the table.
  - b. Set Date for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance Committee Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting scheduled for Jan 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Danielle Bevins to reserve a room.
- 9. Status of PTO 501(c)3 vs. PTA Update- Danielle Bevins (topic moved to end of agenda)
 

Danielle presented details on the PTA option and after discussion with the board it was agreed unanimously that we would pursue this option instead of establishing our own 501c3 since that option may be more costly and cumbersome. PTA will cost \$4.50 per voting member. We will need bylaws and there may be an initial set-up fee. Danielle did reach out to the Milton PTA and they do pay insurance at \$465 per year to protect the board members and association. The insurance is recommended whether we go with either option, PTA or 501c3.

Reminder for Upcoming Meetings: Wednesday March 13, 2019 and Tuesday May 14, 2019

Minutes submitted by Stephanie Fournier, CMS Secretary 1/21/2019