Meeting Minutes

DiPietro Elementary PTO

Wednesday September 5, 2018

# In Attendance

Christine Cooper, Janet Hagopian, Jennifer Russo, Vanessa Ashton, Judi Lamarre, Joan Peluso, Kelly Brooks, Karen Walsh, Karin Criasia, Colleen Ammidown, Amy Naples, Tricia Cormier, Paola Echeverry, Kasandra Donato, Tiffany Frappier, Brittany Jencks, Susie Reavy, Sarah Houle, Amie Mehrotra, Samantha McCabe, Gina Savastano

# Approval of Minutes

Minutes Approved on 10/3/2018

# Discussion Items

* Budget Review – see budget section.
* Reminder that teachers are allotted $200 for reimbursement of classroom supplies (specialty teachers are allotted $100), however we are suggesting using the Teacherlists.com program on a trial to see if it works as well. This website allows teachers to create online lists for items that they need and parents can sign up to donate the items. May save on overhead costs if this works well. It was also brought up that we could do the “apple wish tree” – where parents can take wishes off the tree and fulfill.
* Playground equipment request (hula hoops, sidewalk chalk, kickballs, nerf balls, etc) – we agreed to try doing this through the teacherlists.com website under the Other category to see if people donate, if not, we can purchase items rather cheaply.
* Reminder that we can reimburse parents for items purchased for PTO sponsored events where they volunteer within a given budget. Need forms and receipts to reimburse.
* Discussion of Grants – out of school funding. There are many out there available for application – Loewe’s, Crayola, Target, Planet Aid, etc. Christine Cooper to take the action item of changing out Stop & Shop Rewards over to DiPietro name.
* Projection System – phase I funding ($12,000) complete from last year’s Fun Run – next year’s Fun Run will fund Phase II.
* Discussion on why we are not applying for 5013C status. At the moment, this does not make sense. We do have a Tax-Exempt ID for school purchases however.
* Principal’s/Secretary’s Corner: Great opening of the school year despite the heat. Mrs. Lamarre thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Announcement of 2 pilot math programs, the Bridges program (more hands-on learning) and the Ready Math program (which follows testing model) – these have been launched for grades K-5 in Bellingham. 2 teachers at each grade level – will review data later to determine how program is progressing. Discussed Social Emotional Learning initiatives – enforcing celebrating each individual as they are and how to self-regulate. ESL 1x per week for all students beginning 9/17. Parent workshops launched a well.
* Vanessa Ashton discussed programs we are funding for the year, including: Len Cabral has been booked last day of Feb to kick of reading month. Pumpernickel Puppets for grades K & 1. Birds of Prey does offer a shorter program to accommodate our needs. Discovery Museum.
* Planned Fundraisers:
  + Reminder: Please get CORI checked and fingerprinted so you can volunteer. CORI is good for 3 years and Fingerprinting is for life.
  + Ice Cream Social – Amy Lane is leading committee of volunteers. Everyone pays $4 ($20 family cap), Joe Paws will make an appearance, Gloves are confirmed, photo booth has been donated (can use with a food pantry non-perishable item “payment”), raffles for some great items (everything from sports tix to restaurant gift cards, to jewelry). NEED VOLUNTEERS to help scoop second shift as well as sell raffle tickets.
  + Holiday Shop – PTO shops for items we can sell, slight mark ups to make money for school. Kids shop during their library days – items range from $1-$5 – we have little bags we can put things in. NEED VOLUNTEERS to help with kid’s shopping, etc. This year, instead of wrapping, we will have a donation box for the extra $ - this money will go to help kids from struggling families be able to participate in the shopping.
  + Glow Run (Boosterthon) – Raises funds for projection system Phase II, This is our biggest fundraiser and we will be marketing it quite a bit.
  + Penny Wars – lasts for one week, bottles outside each class to collect; class with most pennies gets a prize at the end of the week (ice cream party, other options)
  + Square One Art – kid’s art turned into mugs, pillows, potholders, etc. Anne Marie Young will lead this volunteer committee. If tiles are purchased they get hung up in the school to add to the others.
  + Family Fun Night – Theme this year is “Out of this World” – DJ Mike, Snacks (donated), Raffle Baskets (donated by theme per class), Games, etc. Raffled lunch with Mrs. Lamarre. Parent said they would donate a photo booth prop (astronaut).
  + Investigating interest in a wine tasting (adults only) fundraiser event.
* PTO Open House has been scheduled at Devlin’s in Bellingham on 9/17 – very casual, light appetizers to be provided, get information on PTO, how to volunteer, etc.
* Fall Ball – We decided to change the Winter Ball to a Fall Ball Masquerade, free event (however will need to cap attendees), DJ Mike, dress nicely, make masks. We need VOLUNTEERS to join this planning committee.
* Winter Gear Drive for St. Blaise – boxes will be at entry ways for people to donate gently used winter gear. Also mentioned was the magnets, which have been ordered and the Kindness is Contagious (can put name on back – organized by Mrs.Haynes – Heavy Press)
* School Gear – Open for one week, Yanique Healey is organizing – DiPietro school named gear such as sweatshirts, hats, etc.
* Teacher Luncheons – we will hold two this year, one for holiday and one for teacher appreciation week. Karin Criasia organizing this volunteer committee. Kelly Brooks to donate celebration cakes.
* Souperbowl – Discussed keeping food donations for the food pantry as opposed to St. Blaise, but if we get a good amount can donate extra to the organization. Stack cans on stage/photo op.
* May 6th week – Teacher Appreciation Week. Usually do things each day of this week. Gina suggested making it the whole month with activities on the Fridays, with last Friday being the lunch. One parent to each week of activity to organize. Suggested each class does a theme for gift baskets and these are then raffled off to teachers at the end of the month. Wil discuss further.
* Field Day – Date in June TBD – DJ Mike
* Walk to School – PTO Sponsoring – Starting up in October – will do 3-4 a year. POLICE CONTACT NEEDED.
* Box Tops – Yanique Healey leading committee.
* BOKS Program – Reeboks Sponsored Program
  + Sandy & Brette got certification
  + Parent Volunteers Confirmed, may need more.
  + 4 week 1 day training for new volunteers
  + Availability will determine how many days we can offer. 6-week program.
  + Music, exercise, sports, etc.
  + Sign up early.

# Budget

Janet H reviewed the budget with the group, noting that this will change once we see what we can raise through fundraisers this year.

Teacher Requests Included: Cooler Water Funding for Teacher Staff Room - $600 – PTO Agreed; Wee Deliver Program (runs Dec-June) $500 for after-hours work (Mrs. Cavossa) – PTO Agreed, will take from Clubs Budget ($1000 cap); Woot Woot Wagon - $500 – Mrs. Lamarre has offered to cover/will not come from PTO Budget.

Current Budget was approved by Joan Peluso and seconded by Tricia Cormier.

# Announcements

Volunteers Needed: Ice Cream Social, Holiday Shop and Fall Ball. Be sure to add the Remind App.

# Next Meeting

PTO Open House – Sept 17 – Devlin’s Pub

PTO Meeting - October 3 – 7 PM, DiPietro School Library