Meeting Minutes

DiPietro Elementary PTO

Wednesday October 3, 2018

# In Attendance

Christine Cooper, Janet Hagopian, Jennifer Russo, Vanessa Ashton, Judi Lamarre, Joan Peluso, Colleen Ammidown, Karin Criasia, Kasandra Donato, Samantha McCabe, Amy Naples, Kelly Brooks, Karen Walsh, Susan Reavy, Diana St. Amand, Paul Painchaud, Gina Savastano, Steph Jandrow, Rachael Barrasso, Michelle Gaw, Sarah Houle

# Approval of Minutes

Approved 11/7/2018

# Discussion Items

* Minutes from September were reviewed and approved.
* Budget Review – approved with one amendment – move Fall Ball to give back section and not Fundraising section.
* Principal’s Corner – Judi Lamarre – First round of iReady testing to happen this week, looking forward to seeing those results. Have observed some Bridges lessons and really impressed with how student thinking has evolved in this program. Unfortunately, only achieved a “Partially Meets Expectations” for MCAS results from last year. Looking at ways we can improve on this and doing progress monitoring throughout. SEL one time a week for all students in addition to the Paths program. This is going really well. 10/24 at 6:30 PM there will be an info session for parents on SEL and Paths.
* Secretary’s Corner – Joan Peluso – No updates at this time.
* Programs Update – Vanessa Ashton – Made a change to the Discovery Museum program – changing from Force/Magnetism to Electromagnetism instead since this offers a 45 min program and fits within our schedule better. Working on finalizing the contract. All other programs have been scheduled for the year.
* Ice Cream Social Feedback – 26 Raffle items & Donated Photo Booth were a success. Thank you letters are being sent by Jennifer Russo. Received great response and feedback from this event and raised more than $2500.
* PTO Open House at Devlin’s – several people went and Liz (Devlin’s owner) donated additional appetizers. Had some good conversations with new parents to the school.
* Teacher Requests – online method is going well – we received a lot of playground equipment through this request site. This will be ongoing.
* Holiday Shop – week of 12/17, kids will shop during their library special time. PTO went through the inventory and we have a lot more than we thought, will be purchasing other items as well to sell for $1-$5. Instead of wrapping, where we charged $1 last year, we will be using bags we have in stock. $1 can be a donation that will go to kids who need assistance with shopping funds, so all can participate.
* Booster Glow/Fun Run – Monday 1/14 – we need to start promoting this early and will need volunteers. Question on how pledges were tracked last year – Stephanie to connect with Christine on this. Funds will go to phase II of the projection system costs. Phase I of the projection system installation (from last year’s money raised) is planned to be installed this weekend.
* Parents Night Out Fundraiser – Wine tasting being explored. La Cantina is one of the wineries we are looking at. Jennifer Russo to continue research on this.
* Fall Ball – Volunteer sheets have been sent out. We will be ordering pizza and selling for $1 a slice. Snacks will be donated and free to attendees. DJ Mike will be there and there will be a craft area and a selfie photo booth. Committee is currently working on these items.
  + Discussion on how to improve process for tickets and handle capacity issues. Capacity for gym and cafeteria is confirmed at 300 people due to fire code regulations. As we have more students at the school then this capacity several solutions were discussed.
    - Find a larger venue to hold the event – Middle School or High School perhaps.
    - Stagger by grade and have two dates, one for PreK-1 and one for 2-3.
    - Have two entirely separate events for different grade levels. Maybe one in Fall and one in Spring.
    - Move to an online registration system for tickets.
* Winter Gear Drive – week of 10/29. Lightly used winter items will be accepted – jackets, hats, gloves, blankets, scarves – can accept new socks as well. We have a volunteer to lead this but could use another if possible.
* Teacher Lunches – Holiday lunch on 12/11 – Karin Criasia is leading efforts. Will need parent volunteers for 3 lunch periods and recess times. Ideally 2 volunteers for every classroom, with at least 5 for every lunch period. Need one person to take charge and facilitate the schedule for volunteers.
* First Walk to School Day is 10/15. Christine is leading this one. Joe Paws will be at the school welcoming kids in, Police Detail assigned. Permission slips are coming in. Suggestion to have “celebrity walkers” or at stations cheering kids on.
* 3rd Grade Memory Day – held this during the day last year which was successful. Ice Cream/Slushie truck was there and this worked well. Awards for Academics and SEL as well as some other things. Photo Slideshow. Discussion on having the 3rd grade concert the same day to make it easier for parent’s schedules. Date is TBD. Need a committee to organize – sign-up sheet went around at the meeting. Additional asks will be included in Dispute Beat Newsletter.
* Box Tops – Yanique Healy will collect soon for last month and assign class winner for trophy and prize.
* School Gear – Order period from 10/15-10/26. $5 Paw magnets can be purchased through PTO.
* BOKS – Gina gave an update on the first BOKS meeting – went very well. A large group (39 kids) this time for the 4-week trial session. May separate into two days per week and split up kids if it works for volunteers.
* BASE Program Enrichments – Communication issue this time around – can speak to Nisa Packert at the YMCA about this. Many people did not receive email or forms around these programs, so they were less attended. STEM was cancelled due to lack of participation.
* Reminder that everyone needs to complete the Family ID on the school website. Will include in Dispute Beat announcement as deadline is approaching quickly to have this done. Joan Peluso has been monitoring this as well.
* Tax ID Discussion – some businesses allow for donations to be made to organizations based on employee volunteer hours. Question on whether this needs to be a 501C org for this to be accepted. Janet mentioned there is an EZ Form for the Tax ID – will investigate implications further.

# Budget

Janet H reviewed the budget with the group, one change is needed – move Fall Ball event out of the Fundraising section and over to the Give Back section. Budget is approved with this change.

Made over $2,500 at the Ice Cream Social Fundraiser minus some expenses.

# Announcements

Volunteers Needed: Fall Ball, Holiday Shop, Teacher Lunch, 3rd Grade Memory Day

# Next Meeting

PTO Meeting - November 7 at 7 PM, DiPietro School Library