

NEEDHAM ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 17, 2020

6:00 PM

VIA ZOOM

Attendees: Angie Gonzalez, Jessie Webb, Kathryn Santiago, Jay Santiago, Cindy King, Carrie Schroeder, Shannon Bedwell, Vita Viviano, Melissa Stewart, Kathy Wilson, Tayai Scott, Katrina, Jamie Law, Ellen DuKate, Kari Beyer, Amy Davidson, Jessica Brown, Dylan Purlee

MINUTES

1. The February meeting minutes were emailed to the PTO mailing list, posted on the Needham Elementary PTO Facebook group, and posted on the Needham Elementary website. Due to the February minutes being dispersed prior to the meeting, Kari Beyer moved to dispense the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes as written. Shannon Bedwell seconded. MOTION APPROVED.

REPORTS

1. President's Report
 - Jamie Law reported a briefing on the meeting with Dr. Clendening. The meeting centered around the Strategic Task Force's work over the past few months. The plan being proposed to the School Board includes keeping the grade structure the same, having more consistent and structured after school activities for grades 5-8, and having a more consistent approach to related arts. Other items being proposed to the School Board will be adding four social workers to the school district, adding agriculture as the career pathway, and redistricting. The plan is to present these items to the School Board in April with hopes that it will be approved in May.
2. Treasurer's Report
 - The February 2020 starting balance was \$23,067.75. The PTO brought in a profit of \$4,149.81. The debits for the month totaled \$4,760.81. This brings the ending balance as of March 17th to \$22,456.11.
 - Skate Time lost the PTO's check and a new check had to be re-issued.
 - There are outstanding deposits for spirit wear and the carnival that are not included in the March report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Spirit Wear
 - Ellen DuKate, Spirit Wear chair, placed the spirit wear orders last Tuesday. There were a total of 35 orders totaling \$1400 in sales.
 - Depending on the current situation, it is yet to be determined how the spirit wear orders will be distributed. If school is back in session, the orders will be sent home with students. If school is still out of session, we may be able to organize a pick up day/time for orders.

2. Cookies and Canvas

- Spring Cookies and Canvas had less number of students than the fall session.
- Kindergarten and First grade had 20 students and 2nd-4th grade had 22 students.
- The total profit before reimbursing the cost of supplies was \$440.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

- The original plan is to have Hillbilly Hot Dogs bring their food truck to provide lunch for teachers, staff, and bus drivers one day during that week. Gift cards and a gift was going to be given to teachers and staff, as well. With the remainder of the school year up in the air, the other option that is being considered is to send gift cards to teachers/staff electronically. More updates will come as the week gets closer.

2. Reading Counts

- Kathryn Santiago, Reading Counts chair, reported all of the points through January are accounted for and prizes were sent home with students. Any kindergartener with points received a prize.
- The points needed to qualify for the end of the year party are as follows: 50-1st grade, 100-2nd grade, 150-3rd grade, and 200-4th grade. There is typically a top prize for the top reader of the program. All students who attend the party will also receive a goody bag.
- The end of the year party details are still being sorted out, but outside games are being considered as an option.
- Because of the extended time out of school, the criteria may have to be changed for attending the party.
- Reading Counts quizzes are not available to be taken at home during at home learning. Questions are very specific to the book's content and it will be hard for students to take quizzes on books they read during the extended time off.

3. Spring Carnival & Silent Auction

- The event scheduled for April 10th will be cancelled.
- Jessica Brown, Fundraising/Spring Carnival chair, has contacted the food truck vendors and let them know the status of the event.
- The PTO does have auction items that have already been received. Some of these items do not have expiration dates-those items can be saved and used for next year's auction. For items with expiration dates, it was suggested to contact the companies and see if they would be willing to extend the expiration dates.
- One suggestion was to have the silent auction on Back To School Night.
- Another suggestion was to give donated items to teachers.
- Jessica will keep everyone updated on the status of the event and what is decided regarding the auction items.

4. Wizards Game

- Jamie Law reported the game has been cancelled.
- The district PTOs are hoping for a full refund and have not committed for next year.

5. Fourth Grade Promotion

- The Fourth Grade Promotion is scheduled for May 20th.
- Carrie Schroeder, Fourth Grade Promotion Chair, reported that the committee met last Monday.
- The event is open to any one who wants to help and there will be a need for more help.
- Carrie will be checking on T-shirt prices.
- Because of the current unknown school situation, there may need to be a re-evaluation on certain things, such as Needham memories and the slideshow.

6. Election Process Open

- Nominations for the PTO board for the 2020-2021 school year will take place during the April PTO meeting.
- Anyone interested in nominating someone or running for a board position, email Carrie Schroeder, Election Committee Chair [carrieschroeder1@comcast.net].
- The PTO is also looking for committee chairs for the 2020-2021 school year.

7. Dine to Donate

- Jessica Brown, Dine to Donate chair, reported the McDonald's Dine to Donate event has been cancelled.
- The event may be put on the event calendar for next year.

8. Communications

- Kari Beyer, Communications chair, sent out the PTO newsletter via email and posted on the Needham Facebook group.
- With a lot of future events being up in the air, the PTO will be working on communicating any and all changes that occur during this time.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Dylan Purlee, Principal will be sending out a survey on Friday regarding feedback from parents/students regarding at home learning.
- I-Read has been postponed indefinitely.
- Teachers will start introducing new materials to students and getting them ready to move to the next grade level.

TEACHERS' REPORTS

- Ms. King reported the County Spelling Bee will probably be cancelled.
- Ms. Viviano thanked the PTO, fellow teachers/staff, and Mr. Purlee for their support during the at-home learning phase.

The next PTO meeting will be Tuesday, April 21st at 6:00 PM.
Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.
Minutes compiled by Kari Beyer, Secretary