

Cider Mill PTA Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2020

Attendees: Carolyn Lyon, Meghan Russo, Michelle Krupa, Tammy Thornton, Angela Bailey, Jacqueline Cox, Ritu Malik, Lauren Catalano, Manisha Patel, Amanda Patania, Vanessa Elais, Jen Cawajal, Justyna Numczyk, Jen Bell

1. Call to order, 9:23am
2. Welcome by Carolyn Lyon and Meghan Russo
 - Big thanks to Sabeth and Meghan for the Staff Lunch! SO AMAZING and much appreciated
 - 3rd Grade Fun Night Jan 24th & 4th Grade Feb 7th - inflatable obstacle course, DJ and dancers, props, snacks, etc. Asking all to bring water bottles, in support of zero waste effort. Drop off at the loop and check in at house tables. Parent volunteers needed, please sign up.
 - 5th Grade Fun Night in planning stages for March at the YMCA
 - Field Day this year will be revamped and led by the PE teachers. Parent Volunteers will still be needed, but will be entirely run by PE department - 24 activities to be set-up and will be a whole day event
 - Curriculum review starting for ELA.
 - Visiting Author will be tied to Wilton Reads Program
 - Voting on increasing Cider Mill's Got Talent budget by \$500 for custodial fees. Vanessa made a motion to approve. Tammy seconded. Approved.
 - Voting on Hurlbutt Street Schoolhouse, where our 3rd grade takes a field trip annually, had to repair the entire roof this past summer - Board of Directors would like to make a \$1000 donation. Carolyn made a motion to approve. Tammy seconded. Approved.
3. Principal's Report (Ms. Lauren Catalano)
 - Rainbow Benches now outside main doors - result of bottle cap collection last year as part of zero waste and gardening clubs. Special thanks to Ms. Romond's parents for making this possible. Looking into more local sourcing for this project.
 - District Safety Committee always looking to improve processes. Reunification (with families) process in case of emergency review will be led by Catherine O'Keefe.
 - Next set of clubs will be announced and info will be distributed 3rd week of Jan
 - STEAM Lab update coming in next newsletter
 - Smart Watches have become more prevalent - district reviewing policies to determine how to deal with distractions in the classroom
4. PTA Teacher Representatives Report (Ms. Jacqueline Cox)
 - Thank you for the awesome Dec 11th luncheon
 - SEPTA meeting will be attended by Abby Searfoss, teacher representative
 - Fifth grade curriculum update about Independent Writing Project. Current unit - students get to choose from many genres. Given support in small groups. Students must create their own timeline and be accountable for it. Freedom to choose to write whatever interests the students to inspire creativity and independent writing.
5. Officer Reports:
 - Gifts and Grants by Michelle Krupa
 - **Indoor Recess** requires students to be in the cafeteria for 40 minutes. 5 shelving units (one per house plus one nut-free) - need resources such as legos, connectors, mad libs, rubix, paper rolls, crayons - to encourage and support indoor free play. Requesting \$3150 grant (\$1600 for shelving will use our Scholastic dollars from the Book Fair). Suggestion to shop Minks to Sinks for games as well. Michelle made motion for approval. Vanessa seconded. Approved.

- **Helping Hands** from two 3rd grade teachers who also lead the Helping Hands after-school club requesting their own collection of posters, markers, pencils etc. to create signage throughout the building for school events. \$170 requested. Michelle made motion for approval. Vanessa seconded. Approved.

Parent At Large's Report by Ritu Malik

- BOE budget presentation this Thursday. Public presentation on Jan 23rd at Middlebrook.

Treasurer's Report by Manisha Patel

- Revenue/Fundraising
 - Fall Book Fair: Net +\$10K
- Expenses/Programs and Admin
 - Tiles & Treats Net +\$500, Bingo Net +\$1400, Great Books Net +\$300
 - Paid: Teacher grants \$14K, Zero Waste \$140, Outdoor learning garden \$100, Internet safety \$650, Hospitality \$400, WYC Donation \$1500
- Cash balance - total \$38K - \$16K in checking account for operations, \$21K in money market account for reserve (1 year operations)
- Huge donation received from the Turnover Shop!

Secretary's Report by Jen Bell

- Shared minutes from 11/12/19. Jen made a motion for approval. Seconded by Tammy. Approved.

6. Committee Reports

Book Fair (Danielle Bottinger)

Thank you for your all of the help and support for set-up, sales, and break-down! Very successful!

Hospitality (Sabeth Albert/Meghan Russo)

- Teacher/Staff Holiday Luncheon (Dec 11) - wonderful success! Thank you for all the donations!
- Next event: Bus Driver Breakfast on Feb 6th at Comstock

Zero Waste (Tammy Thornton)

- Thanks to the school for supporting our efforts by purchasing countertop compost bins for each classroom! The bins are being distributed by the student Zero Waste & Garden club soon, along with some instructions for teachers. We're very appreciative!
- We are having a meeting soon with our counterparts at other schools and are looking forward to another Zero Waste week this Spring leading up to the Zero Waste Fair. This will likely be the week of March 23-27, and we will coordinate with administration well in advance of that time to make sure that works for everyone.

SEPTA (Kara Berghaus)

- Parent Coffee at Miller-Driscoll ELC with SPED*NET
- Next meeting Wed, Feb 19th 7:00pm in Rm 12 at Comstock

WYC (Vanessa Elias)

- Tomorrow morning, presentation on vaping at 10am Wilton Library
- "How to Raise an Adult" by Julie Lythcott-Haims - Book Club at Comstock Wed Feb 19th at 10am. (She will be speaking in Ridgefield March 26th)

7. **Reading Rocks** kicking off now! Online donations new this year!

8. Meeting ended at 10:13am

Date of next PTA General Meeting: Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 9:15am