

September 4, 2019

Meeting Start: 3:15 pm

May minutes were approved. Jennifer motioned and Dana seconded. All approved.

In attendance: Aimee Magovern; President, Dana Pustinger; Vice President, Jennifer Catolane; Treasurer, Linda Curtiss; Secretary, Tom Nadolny, C.J. Keller, Meaghan Martin, Megan Smigel, Jennifer Hibbins Salzano, Jennifer Heath Thomas, Dawn Odell Lemon, Jenna Bessey, Amy Maxton

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Guest Speakers: Ava Thomas and Sydney Curtiss from 3rd grade came in to talk about the new ketchup packets being used in the cafeteria. They are concerned about the waste of plastic being caused from these, expressing that each packet holds very little ketchup; therefore multiple packets are being used by each person using ketchup. They were told the switch was made because the older students were squirting the bottles into their mouths and not using them appropriately. They are also concerned about the plastic ware being used instead of real silverware. They concerned about all that plastic ending up in the ocean and they want the earth to be "healthy." Possible solutions could be a large pump for ketchup to be dispensed in the kitchen after receiving food or near the water cooler. Tom will speak with Kendra and try to come up with the best possible solution. He will also talk with her about the silverware issue. The PTA is willing to purchase the silverware if the switch is made.
- Back To School: Welcome back sidewalk chalking was a hit. Teachers and staff enjoyed Megan Smigel's "If you give a teacher a cookie, they will have a great first day" cookie basket. Dana brought in coffee and chocolates as well. The staff enjoyed it.
- Price Chopper Rewards: Aimee registered our school for this year so everyone can use their cards to get rewards for us.
- Box Tops: Are now scan-able. Aimee will write in the Otis Observer about box tops explaining how the new system works, as well as how to get the app to scan receipts to benefit our school. Aimee is looking for someone to help to take over the paper box top collections. Dawn suggested that Julie Andrus might be interested in helping out with that. Aimee will get in contact with her.
- Apparel Fundraiser: Aimee spoke with Brett from Twisted Orchard about printing shirts for us for a fundraiser. She is looking for someone who would be interested in working with him to come up with design ideas. Mr. Keller suggested that maybe Mrs. Catullo would be interested in working on it. Aimee will get the profit margin from him to see if it is worth doing as a fundraiser.
- Scholastic Book Fair: Pros and cons of doing a book fair: It takes a lot of time and effort to set up, take down and run it for the few days. Some parents don't send money for their children to participate. Some parents feel that more children by "stuff" rather than actual books. Teachers do benefit from the book fair. Mrs. Maxton and Mrs. Martin would volunteer some time, they just can't do so during the school day. In the past, most all of the profit has been given to the library. Mrs. Martin asked if some could be given to teachers as well. Aimee said she will work on that. We would like to do it in the spring instead of fall, however we can't have one in the spring unless we hold one in the fall. Most of the discounts are available in the spring. It might be more beneficial to have the teachers create "wish lists" for books and learning tools they would like on Amazon, instead of doing it through the book fair. We could have the teachers' wish lists available at Back to School Night available for parents. Mrs. Martin will mention it to the teachers at the next staff meeting.

- Sunshine gifts: Tom mentioned that Derek Poirier helped a lot with removing the old play structure, as well as with moving the pile of new wood chips from the parking lot to the playground. We should send a thank you note to him.

Vice President's Report:

- Basketball nets and ga-ga pit: Tom asked for some volunteers to help Jeff set up the ga-ga pit. Jeff leaves a 2:30 so it would need to be during the day or in the morning. Aimee, Jen Thomas and Jen Catolane can help Monday morning.
- Woodchips vs. ground up rubber: Jennifer Salzano asked if the playground could be switched from traditional woodchips to the rubber next year. Tom said the woodchips we got this year will last for 2 years, until they pack down. The cost of the woodchips to cover both the preschool playground as well as the large on was \$2000. Rubber material made for playgrounds would cost around \$4000. However, while the woodchips break down over time and need to be replaced every few years, the rubber ones will last indefinitely, proving to be more cost effective over time, as well as better cushioning for safety. Aimee or Tom will talk to Eric about putting that in the budget for next year. The concern of safety was brought up whether rubber is safe for children to be exposed to. However, it was concluded that other schools and playgrounds, such as Lenox use them, so we would assume it is safe, but that will be looked into more before purchasing for our school.
- Fundraiser ideas in place of Family Fun Night: Dana spoke with the owner of The Grouse House about doing a dining out, in which the school would receive a percentage of sales. It would need to be on a Wednesday or Thursday evening, possibly in November or March. We could have an activity for the kids at the school during the "dine out" time, in which parents could pay a few dollars for their child to stay while they dine. Neesha Dolan has expressed interest in doing an obstacle course type event in the past. We will need to work out the details.
- Field Day: Who uses the bounce house after field day morning? Jenna Daley usually takes the 6th grade down first, and then any classes that have gym that day will go down, and if there are any open slots other classes can go down. The specials time blocks are the teachers' planning time, but Tom suggested maybe we could have someone be there on field day to take other classes down.

Secretary's Report:

- Silverware in the cafeteria: was discussed with the children

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Finances: The Bank account balance is just under \$14,000, less classroom accounts, leaving us with just under \$11,000. 6th grade account has not been depleted, with over \$1,100 in their account. It is possible that some of their field trip was paid from our general account. Therefore it may need to go back into the general account. We are up to date with all payments to the school. We will need to pay \$30 for the annual report for the past 2 years, and \$70 for the last 2 years for the mass public charities report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Fundraising Brainstorm: (Jenna Bessy) Quarter Auction: a family fun event. Start with donations and vendors. Vendors pay us to set up tables (\$20-\$25), at which people can browse and purchase items from directly. Each vendor puts a few items into the auction. People pay \$10 to attend and get 2 paddles with a number on it, with the option to buy more paddles. Paddles are used to bid and bids are made with quarters. There can also be a bake sale on the side. Donations from local businesses such as gift cards or baskets can be auctioned off as well. We can also have other food available for purchase.

- Jennifer Salzano has a brochure of a chocolate fundraiser in which she often gives as Holiday gifts. For the Holiday Brochure program, the profit is up to 50%. There is an online option and prize program. They also have a candy bar program, at 40% and 50% profit.
- Dawn suggested making and selling holiday wreaths and kissing balls. She could do a lesson on how to make a wreath with a wire coat hanger and greens; the sales would be all profit. Mrs. Maxton offered to decorate the wreaths once made. We could make 40+ ahead of time and then offer them for sale here at the beginning of December or end of November. Mr. Keller suggested she offer the lesson to the students and parents, in which they would pay for the lesson and then leave with their finished wreath. Wreaths generally sell for approx. \$40 and kissing balls sell for around \$30.

Next meeting: October 2, 2019 at 3:15pm

Meeting adjourned: 4:58 pm. Aimee motioned, Dana seconded.