

March 4, 2020

Meeting Start: 3:16 pm

February minutes were approved. Dana motioned and Jennifer Catolane seconded. All approved.

In attendance: Aimee Magovern; President, Dana Pustinger; Vice President, Jennifer Catolane; Treasurer, Linda Curtiss; Secretary, Meaghan Martin, Laura Catullo, Jenna Bessey, Jennifer Heath Thomas, Dawn Lemon, Craig Drenga, Jennifer Hibbins Salzano.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- School supplies Survey Update: Dana has contacted all the teachers to find out if they are interested and only received responses from the downstairs' classroom teachers. Meaghan thinks that the upstairs' supplies might be more expensive. When she was looking at the catalog and adding things up it was getting expensive. It might work better to have each student pay their teacher \$15 and the teachers can go out and get the supplies they need for each student. Then the PTA can chip in for the upstairs classrooms or for any class that runs short. Sometimes stores like Staples and Office Max will give donations if teachers ask.
- Grouse House Fundraiser: Was rescheduled (due to the change of April vacation week) to Wednesday, April 15th 4:00-9:00. They will give us 10% of all dine-in food sales, or on take out of large pizzas only; no alcohol can be included by law of the state.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

- Reusable Silverware Update: (Mrs. Catullo) Utensils went home and came back today for the first day. The children have discussed how to clean them and to remember to bring them back.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Finances: Our bank account has around \$19,000 as of now, not including classroom accounts. We paid for the piano repair, as well as purchases for teachers through Amazon Smile, we put a \$200 deposit on the bounce house for field day, and paid out for prizes for top sellers.
- Cash Calendar update: A deposit for \$18,640 was made from cash calendar sales. Next year we are going to ask families to deposit the cash and write a check for their calendar sales, because dealing with all the cash is tricky; from transport by children to and from school to depositing over \$10,000 in cash into the bank. Do we want to put a percentage of profits into classroom and/or teacher accounts? If so, what percent? 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25% or 30%? Do we separate what teachers sold from what students sold? Should we give the teachers a percentage of what they sold, and each class a percentage of what they sold? We really want the 6th grade to have enough money by the end of the year to cover the costs of their graduation and trip to Boston. They need about \$3,000. The fall fundraiser has not been successful enough to raise enough funds. What is the best possible way to spend the money we have raised to benefit the students? How can we motivate more students to participate in fundraisers? Can the PTA cover the difference when they are short without lowering the expectations on students' participation in fundraising? We shouldn't have to do extra fundraisers every year, above the three major ones we do each year, in order for 6th grade to reach their goal. If everyone was to participate, we should be able to come closer to having enough funds by the end of 6th grade. We can come back to this at the next meeting and possibly vote on the decision.
- Dr. Seuss: \$195 was spent. Next year, instead of doing the little bags of pencils, erasers, etc., we will do a fun craft, food craft, activity, or get a cake to share.
- Muffins with Moms and Donuts with Dads: (Aimee Maxton) Can we provide around \$200 to cover the cost of this? We still have a case of water that they can use.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Tubing at Butternut closing thoughts (Dawn): Feedback was positive. Doing it on a Sunday was a hit for many families. Families enjoyed it and were very grateful. We paid for more tickets, but we didn't have to pay for the bus. Big Y donated a \$50 gift card; s'mores and hot cocoa cost around \$100. Dawn spoke with Dave at Butternut and he said we are good to go again next year at the \$5 rate. Dana sent a thank you card around for students to sign and Dawn mailed it to Dave at Butternut.
- Story Teller, Rona Leventhal update: Can we use the grant from Otis Cultural Council for Rona along with using it for Rhonda. We have to remember to acknowledge the OCC as part of the MCC. Linda will email Carol at OCC to find out how we go about doing that.
- Ski Program Wrap-up: Pizza party- it was a rainy night. A lot of pizza was left over. Over all, the program was very under staffed. Parents had to go with children up the chairlift every week. The groups had a different instructor each week. On the first night all students, even first time skiers, were taken up the pony tow rope, all the way to the top and some came crashing down. One lesson ended 10 minutes early. Aimee mentioned her concerns to Jamie. Jamie told one parent that she got as many instructors as she could get, however, Bob, an instructor from past years said he was available but they said they didn't need him through the week this year, so he only worked on the weekends this season. Craig had no idea things were running so poorly this year. Aimee will write a letter to Jamie; expressing the concerns of the parents, and see if there is anything we can do to make it run more smoothly next year... possibly having the PTA pay more money so they can hire more instructors and make it a better program. Jenn Thomas recalled when she took lessons as a kid they got pins signifying how well they skied, and what level one was at as they moved up the chart, which offered incentives for the students to do their best, as well as enabled the instructors to know where each child was as far as ability. Is that something the Ridge can bring back for next year or something similar?

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ice Cream Social: Scheduled for Thursday April 16th or Friday 17th. We have to check on the MCAS dates. Aimee will check with the office for conflicts. We will need 4-5 people to be there to serve and one person to get the ice cream and toppings. Linda, Aimee, Jenna can serve, and possibly Jen Catolane, if it is after the 15th. Jenna suggested checking into Wohrls in Pittsfield for the ice cream tubs. They sell cups and other supplies as well.
- Field Day: Scheduled for June 3rd with a rain date of June 5th.

Next meeting: April 1, 2019 at 3:15.

Meeting adjourned: 4:32 pm. Dana motioned, Jen seconded.