

May 20, 2020

Meeting Start: 6:00 pm

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

In attendance: Aimee Magovern; President, Dana Pustinger; Vice President, Jennifer Catolane; Treasurer, Linda Curtiss; Secretary, Dawn Lemon, Meaghan Martin, Jennifer Hibbins Salzano, Megan Smigel, Amy Maxton, Rachel Cannon, Mr. Keller, Craig Drenga, Jess Drenga, Joseph Salzano, Kelly Kennedy, Nanette Higgins, Mr. Nadolny, Candy Chaffee.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Aimee

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dana

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Linda

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jennifer

- Financial update

OLD BUSINESS:

- End of year gifts for students and staff – T-shirts for all from Twisted Orchard in Lee. Thank you cards and \$25 Amazon gift cards for all staff.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Volunteer of the Year Award: Craig Drenga was voted volunteer of the Year. He will receive a card and gift card, and the plaque at the school will have his name listed for this year.
- Voting to approve funding for Yard Signs and Banners for 6th (\$226) and 12th (\$434) graders: (Candy Chafee & Meagan Martin) Candy designed and had printed 14 individual student lawn signs for the sixth graders, 18 signs for the twelfth graders, and 3 banners of sixth and twelfth graders. She had asked Meaghan for help with funding prior to the printing. The original plan was that the signs could be funded, or partially funded, by the sixth grade account and possibly the PTA. Candy was advised to wait to ask the PTA for help until she asked the school committee for approval. It was taken to the school committee and signs were approved but they denied funding. The school committee also said the money shouldn't come from the sixth grade account. By the time it was brought to the PTA, the signs were already printed and put up around town. Aimee gave an explanation of how the PTA funding typically works: In the past the PTA's usual action is to fund activities, events or supplies that benefit the most amount of students. For example, if it benefits the entire school, such as tubing, then the PTA funds 100%. If it only touches a few students or a particular class, then the PTA votes on a percentage of the total cost to help with. Additionally, the PTA also requires that funds are requested prior to the event, activity or item being purchased, not after the event or item bill has already been received. However, this is an unusual and unique time and circumstance, and Candy may have been misadvised. The twelfth grade students are not currently Farmington River students, however, some of them were at one point FRRSD students. Items in question to be funded include: individual student lawn signs for 14 sixth graders and 18 twelfth graders, and 3 banners of sixth and twelfth graders. The full balance is \$660. Should the PTA pay for the sixth grade portion (\$190) of the lawn signs and 20% of the banners, or should we pay for the sixth grade lawn signs only, or should we fund it entirely? Can that money come from the sixth grade account? What will happen to the leftover money in the sixth grade account if it is not used? The options are to partially fund the signs and banners at \$266, pay a different percentage of the bill, or pay the entire bill. After much

debate and consideration a vote was taken and total funding was approved. Aimee will send out a letter to Tom and the school committee and staff that specifically states what the PTA objective is going forward, in terms of what the expectations are when asking for help with funding.

- Voting on the Slate of Officers for the 2020-2021 School Year: Aimee Magovern, President; Dana Pustinger, Vice President; Linda Curtiss, Secretary; Jennifer Catolane, Treasurer. A vote was taken and all were in favor.
- Voting on approving the funding of Yard Signs for the FRRSD teachers and specials (Dana): The cost will be approximately \$200 to print up signs for the teachers and special teachers to thank them for all they have done for the children. A vote was taken. All were in favor to spend the \$200.
- 6th Grade Graduation Citizen Award: (Meaghan Martin) The staff of FRRES voted through an anonymous survey - Survey Monkey - and a graph was used to show results. Andrea Paul was the student with the most votes. The PTA typically presents the recipient with \$200 of gift cards and an inspirational book. The school is holding off on giving out the name publically until they can have an actual graduation ceremony hopefully later this year.
- Sandisfield School Budget Vote (Dawn Lemon): Dawn reached out to the moderator Simon Winchester to let him know that several parents and their children will be coming to the meeting on June 20th, and asked him to put the budget and any other school related topics first on the agenda. The goal is to have the budget pass the first time this year at the town meeting. Dawn will send letters and make phone calls to let parents know about the meeting and ask for their support.
- Discussion on how to support the returning to school initiative (Ms. Cat): Ms. Cat was not present to discuss. We need to wait to see what the governors decide when the time comes.
- Usborne Books (Meghan Martin): Meaghan has recently started selling books through Usborne. She is looking to bring the book fair back to the school. She is learning now how to sell through a school. She believes the profit for the school is around 50% and the school would also receive a certain amount of free books.
- Fall Fundraiser Ideas: Gift card fundraiser – Shop with Script could be done as a fundraiser before the holidays and then people can continue to purchase cards throughout the year. Past years' fundraisers Genevieve Catalog (over \$4,000 profit) and Yankee Candle (around \$2,000 profit) did well making the most profit. Meaghan's 6th grade fundraiser of cookie dough, pastry rolls and pies was profitable. We could do that before the holidays. It is through a local company out of Longmeadow. Staff did have to separate the orders when they arrived and put into bags for each student.
- Fall Program Ideas: Host a Fall Festival, the Bubble Man, Fun Run, etc. We could use the bounce house that already has a deposit on it. We will have to wait and see what happens with social distancing when fall comes.
- Otis Cultural Council donation: Carol Lambardo contacted Aimee about some money that they would like to donate to the PTA to either get gift cards for the school food pantry or do some gift baskets for the 6th graders. She has not yet discussed amount yet. The food pantry would likely be the best beneficiary.
- School Supplies for the Fall: Students will need all individual supplies. How can the PTA help out with this? Mr. Keller suggested gift cards for the teachers to get supplies as they run out. Upstairs' classrooms use a lot of folders, pencils, notebooks, colored pencils and markers, highlighters, modelling clay, art supplies: pop cycle sticks, pipe cleaners, etc. Downstairs' classrooms go through a lot of crayons, markers, glue sticks, folders, and journals. The teachers can give lists for what they need. Dana will send out an email to see what supplies teachers need help with.

Next meeting: September 2020

Meeting adjourned: 7:44 pm. Dana motioned, Jen seconded.