



Malcolm White PTO

Minutes: Wednesday, January 12, 2022

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Executive Board: Amy Panichella (president), Ulli Airey (enrichment coordinator), Jackie Buttaro (vice president), Kevin Kealing (secretary), Rob Nickerson (principal)

Attendance: Renee Prestia, Jennifer Jones, Emily Lipsett, Liz Cuneo, Elise Meyers, Chris Elwell, Janessa Drudi, Mary Bonsignore (5th grade teacher), Heather Grossklaus

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Introductions
- 3) Review of Minutes from December 8th meeting
 - a) Motion made to accept the minutes from the 12/8/21 meeting by Carla, seconded by Kevin and passed unanimously.
- 4) Principal / Teacher Comments
 - a) COVID
 - i) Have to acknowledge that COVID is present in the community and absences are frequent with both staff and students. Most students are signed up for "test and stay." At a high point there were 14 staff out and 25% students out of the building in the past 1.5 weeks.
 - ii) Notifications will only come for close contacts
 - iii) Families have been great with communication around COVID in the home, please keep it up.
 - iv) Nurse Cathy is working very hard and has done an excellent job with the enhanced duties required plus just the normal keeping our kids healthy and safe.
- 5) Treasurer's Report
 - a) Fall fundraiser has raised over \$9,000
 - b) Received unsolicited donations for a total of \$1,050
 - c) Expenses to date total \$2,709
 - d) Bank account total has \$15,257
 - e) Anticipated spending includes 5th grade celebration, enrichment and teacher appreciation.

6) President's Report

- a) Amy asked for teacher comments. Mary Bosingnore asked that the PTO consider purchasing take home folders at the end of the year if there are additional funds
- a) Nurse Cathy's need for pants
 - i) There is a need for pants to help students who need replacement clothes during the day
 - ii) Amy asked for parents to donate pants and also for the PTO to fund addition
 - iii) Carla made a motion to allocate \$150 to Nurse Cathy for the purchase of clothing. Seconded by Emily Lipsett. Discussion items:
 - 1) Jennifer Jones suggested reaching out to the community and offering YES hours for collecting clothing
 - 2) Carla stated that there is money in the budget to cover this expense through the community support line item.
 - 3) Heather Grossklaus asked if there were other supplies needed. Mr. Nickerson commented that winter coats are also needed.
 - 4) Renee Prestia asked if gift cards could be given to Nurse Cathy directly. Mr. Nickerson said that she can accept less than \$50.
 - 5) VOTE – unanimously approved
- b) SquareOne Art
 - i) The packet from Square One art has been shipped and will probably be coming home to parents in Feb/March
- c) Fundraising Request - Liz Cuneo
 - i) Liz proposed selling Superbowl Squares at \$10/each. ½ would go to the PTO and ½ to a drawing winner. The Shamrock did it last year. Liz said that she would do it as an individual if the PTO did not want to.
 - ii) Carla asked that the fundraiser would not be grade specific because there is already a budget line for the 5th grade.
 - iii) Mary Bosingnore made a motion to hold the Superbowl Squares fundraiser with the profits designated to the general fund. Seconded by Carla and passed unanimously.
 - iv) Amy stated that it could be run through the PTO's Venmo and she and Carla will work with Liz to coordinate.

7) Vice-President's Report / Fundraising

- a) Trivia Night
 - i) Hopefully this will take place in the Spring in person, possibly outside, but virtual is also a possibility depending on the venue availability and COVID.

8) Enrichment Coordinator's Report

- a) We received a grant directed to Change is Simple for \$5,500, so no funds from the PTO will be needed for the program.
- b) Book Fair

- i) Continuing to plan with Scholastic for 3/7 - 3/11. This year's theme is "Books Bring Us Together." It is undetermined at this time if it will be virtual or in-person.
 - c) Amy called on the teachers to submit ideas to the PTO for additional enrichment or materials.
- 9) Additional comments/questions
 - a) Elise Mayers talked about creating opportunities to bring a smile into the kids' days. She suggested a Valentine's Day activity of having pre-made hearts with compliments written on them to give to the kids in the morning.
 - i) Amy suggested creating a "Kindness Committee" to come up and work on ideas.
 - ii) Elise commented that opportunities to demonstrate that the PTO contributes to giving back in little ways that parents can see may encourage greater participation.
- 10) Adjournment
 - a) Jackie made a motion to adjourn at 7:45, seconded by Carla and unanimously passed.

****Our next meeting will be on Wednesday February 9th at 7pm****